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No. 7783.—Vol. L. *THURSDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 27, 1890.* *Price One Penny.*

TO-NIGHT'S ENTERTAINMENTS.

DRURY LANE. (The National Theatre.)

EVERY EVENING, at 7.15, and EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, and SATURDAY at 1.30, AUGUSTUS HARRIS'S Pantomime, JACK AND THE BEANSTALK, produced on cale of splendour surpassing in magnificence the displays offered to the public by Mr. AUGUSTUS HARRIS in previous years, and performed by a Company of Comedians each of whom is an acknowledged attraction in himself—Messrs. Nicholls, Leno, Lauri, jun., Griffiths Brothers, Conquest, jun., Leopold Brothers, Abbs, Payne, (Clown), and Campbell; Misses. Vernon, Faudelle, Hewitt, Ænea, Clay, and Duggan. Box-office open from 10 A.M. all day. LAST THREE WEEKS.

HAYMARKET THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. BEERBOHM TREE.)

TO-NIGHT, at 8.30, A MAN'S SHADOW, by ROBERT BUCHANAN. Mr. TREE as LAROQUE and LUVERSAN. Messrs. Fernandez, Kemble, C. Collette, E. M. Robson, Allan, Hargreaves, Tapping, Gurney, Harwood; Miss Julia Neilson, Miss Minnie Terry, Miss Norreys, and Mrs. Tree. At 7.45, GOOD FOR NOTHING; Miss Norreys. Doors open 7.30. Box-office open 10 till 5. Pit Circle (unreserved), 2s. 6d. Gallery, 1s.

MATINEE of A MAN'S SHADOW SATURDAY NEXT and following Saturday, at 2.30.

LYCEUM THEATRE.
(Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. HENRY IRVING.)

THE DEAD HEART—A Story of the French Revolution. TO-NIGHT at Eight o'clock (129th time). Mr. Henry Irving, Mr. Bancroft, Mr. Stirling, Mr. Righton; Miss Phillips and Miss Ellen Terry. Box office (Mr. J. Hurst) open daily 10 to 5. Seats can also be booked by letter or telegram. Carriages, 10.45.—LYCEUM.

CRITERION THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager, Mr. CHARLES WYNDHAM.)

THIS EVENING, at 8.30, OUR BOYS. Mr. David James, Mr. Leonard Boyne, Mr. Arthur Elwood, Mr. E. W. Gardiner; Mesdames Olga Brandon, E. Brunton, F. Frances, E. Vining. Preceded by, at 7.50, SWEETHEART, GOOD-BYE. Messrs. Scott Buist, H. Saker, G. Stanton, L. Chapuy; Mesdames E. Terris, E. Brunton, E. Vining. Doors open at 7.30. N.B.—MATINEE of OUR BOYS SATURDAY NEXT, at 2.30. Doors open at 2 o'clock.

GAIETY THEATRE.

TO-NIGHT, at 8 punctually, RUY BLAS AND THE BLASE ROUE. Miss Ellen Farren, Miss Marion Hood, Miss Sylvia Grey, Miss Linda Verner, Miss Blanche Massey, and Miss Letty Lind; Mr. Fred. Leslie, Mr. Fred. Storey, Mr. Dalton Somers. Doors open at 7.30.

TERRY'S THEATRE.
(Proprietor and Lessee, Mr. EDWARD TERRY.)
(Manageress, Miss GRAHAME.)

TO-NIGHT, at 9, NEW LAMPS FOR OLD. Messrs. W. S. Penley, Bernard Gould, W. Lestocq, and F. Kerr. Mesdames Cissy Grahame, Houston, and Gertrude Kingston. At 8.15 THE PARTING OF THE WAYS. Mesdames M. A. Giffard, Helen Leyton, Rose Dearing, Oscar Adye, and J. Nelson. Doors open at 8. Carriages at 11. Box Office open 10 till 5. Acting Manager, Mr. H. T. BRICKWELL.

TOOLE'S THEATRE.

TO-NIGHT at 9, THE BUNGALOW, by FRED HORNER. The greatest success of modern times. Received with roars of laughter and thunders of applause. At 8.15, ISALDA. Doors open at 7.45. MORNING PERFORMANCE EVERY WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY at 2.15. Doors open at 2.

ADELPHI THEATRE.
(A. and S. GATTI, Sole Proprietors and Managers.)

THIS EVENING, at 8.0, LONDON DAY BY DAY. Immense success. 144th Time. Mr. George Alexander, Messrs. Marius, J. D. Beveridge, J. L. Shine, Lionel Rignold, W. L. Abingdon, Theo. Balfour, M. Bode, H. Russell, James East, W. Northcote, J. Northcote, &c.; Mesdames Alma Murray, Mary Rorke, Kate James, Charlotte Elliott, and Clara Jecks. Doors open at 7.0. THE MARRIED BACHELOR, at 7.15.

VAUDEVILLE THEATRE.
(Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. THOMAS THORNE.)

THIS EVENING, at 8, CLARISSA. Mr. Thomas Thorne, Messrs. T. B. Thalberg, Cyril Maude, Oswald Yorke, J. S. Blythe, Harbury, F. Grove, F. Gillmore, and Fred Thorne; Mesdames Winifred Emery, Mary Collette, C. Owen, L. Bryer, F. Weymiss, Lily Hanbury, and Miss Banister. MATINEE of CLARISSA SATURDAY NEXT, at 2.30.

THE GLOBE THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. R. BENSON.)

THIS EVENING, at 8 (doors open 7.30), THE TAMING OF THE SHREW. Messrs. Black, Athol-Forde, Stuart, Phillips, Gurney, Ross, Shaw, Benson, Weir, Howard, Grenville; Mesdames Benson, Grey, Hawkins, Denvil. N.B.—A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM EVERY EVENING, at 8 (Thursdays and Fridays exceptsd), and WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY MATINEES at 2.30.

PRINCESS'S THEATRE.
MASTER AND MAN.

THIS EVENING, at 7.45, HENRY PETTITT and GEORGE R. SIMS' powerful play, MASTER AND MAN, in which the following popular artists will appear:—Messrs. Henry Neville, J. H. Barnes, Robert Pateman, Brandon Thomas, Sidney Howard, Charles Dalton, Bassett Roe, Fred Shepherd, George Dalziel, E. Mayeur, E. Webster Lawson; Miss Edith Bruce, Mrs. Frank Huntley, and Miss Bella Pateman. Doors open 7.15. Commence 7.45. Box-office (Mr. A. Frye) open daily from ten till five. Seats at all the libraries.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.
(Sole Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. Langtry.)

TO-NIGHT, at 8, AS YOU LIKE IT. Mrs. Langtry; Mesdames M'Neil, Lea, Lamb, Armbruster, &c.; Messrs. Cautley, Bourchier, Sugden, Everill, Fulton, Brodie, Forbes, Gay, Lewis, Canninge, Lawford, Grover, Lingham, Arncliffe, Erlynne, Yorke, &c.

PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager, Mr. HORACE SEDGER.)

TO-NIGHT, at 8.15, MARJORIE. Miss Phyllis Broughton, Mdme. Amadi and Miss Camille d'Arville; Messrs. C. Hayden Coffin, Joseph Tapley, Henry Ashley, Frederick Wood, Albert James, T. A. Shale, A. T. Hendon, and Harry Monkhouse. Preceded at 7.30 by ALL ABROAD. Morning Performance EVERY SATURDAY at 2.30. Telephone No 3,700.

GARRICK THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager, Mr. JOHN HARE.)

THIS EVENING, at 9, A PAIR OF SPECTACLES. Mr. John Hare, Mr. C. Groves, Mr. R. Cathcart, Mr. S. Brough, Mr. C. Dodsworth, Mr. F. H. Knight, Mr. R. Harding, Mr. Byron, Miss Blanche Horlock, Miss F. Hunter, and Miss Kate Rorke. Preceded, at ten minutes past 8, by DREAM FACES. Mr. J. Forbes Robertson, Mr. S. Brough, Mr. S. Pringle; Miss Blanche Horlock and Miss Carlotta Addison (specially engaged) will appear. Doors open 7.40. Box-office open from 10 to 5. Acting Manager, Mr. C. G. COMPTON.

SHAFTESBURY THEATRE.
Messrs. E. S. WILLARD and JOHN LART, Lessees and Managers. Proprietor, Mr. JOHN LANCASTER.
THIS EVENING at 8, THE MIDDLEMAN.

Mr. Willard, Messrs. Mackintosh, E. W. Garden, H. Cane, H. V. Esmond, Ivan Watson, Cecil Crofton, Royston Keith; Mesdames Maude Millett, Annie Hughes, E. H. Brooke, Annie Hill, St. Ange, Eva Moore, &c. Box-office now open daily, 10 to 5. Doors open 7.40. Carriages 11. Acting Manager, Mr. W. H. GRIFFITHS.—SHAFTESBURY THEATRE.

LYRIC THEATRE.
(Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. HENRY J. LESLIE.)

TO-NIGHT, at 8.20, THE RED HUSSAR. Mesdames Marie Tempest, Birdie Irving, Maud Holland, H. Coveney, and Florence Dysart; Messrs. Ben Davies, Alec Marsh, Albert Christian, J. Le Hay, Frank M. Wood, and Arthur Williams. Preceded at 7.30, by WARRANTED BURGLAR PROOF. MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY at 2.30.

COMEDY THEATRE.

TO-NIGHT and EVERY EVENING, at 9 P.M., the celebrated Comedy PINK DOMINOS, adapted by JAMES ALBERY, with powerful cast, including Messrs. Herbert Standing, Alfred Maltby A. Boucicault, &c., and C. H. Hawtrey; Mesdames Goldney, Robertson, Cowell, Alma Stanley, and Rose Saker; preceded, at 8, by ONE SUMMER NIGHT, by F. W. Broughton. Box-office open daily from 10 A.M. to 10 P.M. Telephone, 3,724.

COURT THEATRE.
(Proprietors, Mrs. JOHN WOOD and Mr. ARTHUR CHUDLEIGH.)

TO-NIGHT at 9, 203rd performance of AUNT JACK. Mr. Arthur Cecil, Mr. Weedon Grossmith, Mr. Eric Lewis, Mr. F. Mervin, Mr. Fred Cape, Mr. A. Aynesworth, Mr. W. Phillips, Mr. F. Farren, Mr. Powell, Mr. W. Quinton; Miss Rosina Filippi, Miss Florence Wood, and Mrs. John Wood. At 8.15, TO THE RESCUE, Mr. R. Boleyn, Mr. F. Farren, Miss F. Harrington and Mrs. Phelps. N.B.—TWO SPECIAL MATINEES of AUNT JACK SATURDAYS, March 1 and 3. Doors open at 2, commence at 2.30.

AVENUE THEATRE.
(Under the Management of Mr. GEORGE ALEXANDER.)
TO-NIGHT, at 8.15, FOOL'S MATE. At 9, DR. BILL.

Messrs. Frederick Terry, Nutcombe Gould, Benjamin Webster, George Capel, Henry Grattan and Albert Chevalier; Mesdames Robins, Carlotta Leclercq, Marie Linden, Mary Kingsley, Gracie Murielle, Laura Graves, Edith Kenward, and Fanny Brough. Doors open 7.45.
MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY, and SPECIAL MATINEE WEDNESDAY NEXT, March 5, at 2.30. Doors open 2 o'clock. Box-office open daily from 10 till 5.
Business Manager, Mr. R. D'ALBERTSON.

ALHAMBRA VARIETY THEATRE.

"ASMODEUS," at 9 o'clock, and "OUR ARMY AND NAVY," at 10.50. Signorina, Bessone; Mdlles. Saracco, Marie, Thurgate, and Spotti, and Signor De Vincenti. Varieties by BRUET and RIVIERE, the Sisters Lloyd, Marvelle's Boarhounds and the Dog "Rags," the Albert and Edmunds' Troupe, Arthur Tinsley, Arthur Corney, Marie Collins, the Eddy's Troupe, Lotto, Lilo, and Otto, and JAMES FAWN. Open 7.45 until 11.30.

EMPIRE THEATRE.

Commence at 8. Two Grand Ballets. At 9.0 THE PARIS EXHIBITION. At 10.30, A DREAM OF WEALTH, by M. KATTI LANNER. Music by M. LEOPOLD WENZEL. Mdlles. Palladino and Bettina de Sortis, Signor Albertieri and Signorina Malvina Cavalazzi. Grand Variety Entertainment. At 10, Miss Amy Roselle will recite THE SIEGE OF LUCKNOW, specially written for her by H. SAVILLE CLARKE, Esq. No free list.

ROYAL, Holborn.

GRAND HOLIDAY PROGRAMME.—Special engagement of Lockhart's performing Elephants. G. H. Macdermott, the popular actor and vocalist; Lydia Yeamans, queen of song; the Mannons, in a novel musical absurdity; Yosituro, the wonderful Jap; the Brantfords, American variety artists; Ottaway and Pepper; Abe Daniels, musical clown; Dora Fielding; Arthur Tinsley; Petrot, the marvellous mimic; May and Laverno, statuesque dancers; Sam Torr; Deane Brand, operatic vocalist; Maura, equilibrist; G. Beresford, comic; Prof. Wingfield's Dogs; Ryan and Richfield; Nelly Chapman; Ottoway and Pepper; and others.
EVENINGS at 7.30; SATURDAY MATINEES, 2.30. Prices of admission from 6d. to £2 2s.

WILL PRINCE BISMARCK GO?

THE existence of the "Chancellor crisis," about which we published some hints from one of our Berlin correspondents yesterday, was fully confirmed by the semi-official organs, and was openly discussed in all the German evening papers. The crisis has for the time gone, it seems, the way of its innumerable predecessors. The Chancellor is not going to retire. But on this occasion an important rider is added: "at least not quite yet." In any case, as we said yesterday, his retirement will be very gradual; and instead of "never," we are now told "not yet." The question is thus not so much whether Prince BISMARCK will go, but when?

The official returns of the elections, published at Berlin yesterday, readily explain both why a Chancellor crisis should have been hastened forward at this moment, and why it has been temporarily postponed. The elections are a defeat for Prince BISMARCK more complete and sweeping than the most sanguine of his opponents can have dared to hope. He has lost, roughly speaking, a million votes—a number equal to one-seventh of the whole electorate. That in itself is an extraordinary revulsion of public opinion; and, on the top of other causes, might well explain the Chancellor crisis. But the very extent of the Government's defeat will act in the other direction. The situation in the new Reichstag necessitated by the elections, and the state of public opinion indicated by them, are serious in the extreme; and in the face of them, even the most self-reliant of Emperors might well shrink from losing any of the services of so old a hand as Prince BISMARCK. One thing, therefore, may safely be said about the question, When will he go? He will not go until the political situation has clarified itself. The Chancellor crisis will be postponed to the Parliamentary crisis.

How serious this latter crisis will be may be gauged by the Election Returns, which are now complete so far as the votes cast at the First Ballots are concerned. The actual composition of the new Reichstag depends on the Second Ballots, about which great uncertainty still prevails. But, as we said last week, the significance of a General Election in Germany lies far more in the number of votes than in the configuration of parties. These numbers will best be appreciated in the following table:—

			Decrease				Increase.
Cartel:—				Opposition:			
Conservative	919,646		274,858	Socialists ...	1,341,500		587,405
Free ,,	457,936		235,259	Freisinnige	1,147,863		202,561
Natnl. Lbls.	1,169,112		489,046	S. German			
		2,546,694		Democrats	131,438		789,966
			999,163	Poles	245,852		
				Savages	97,109		
				Alsatians ...	100,479		
						3,064,241	
Centre		1,420,438	206,657			1,420,438	
		3,967,132				4,484,679	

We have, it will be seen, entered the Centre (Ultramontane) vote on both sides of the account. We have done so in order to illustrate the way in which that party now holds the balance of power. In the last Reichstag the Cartel had a bare majority over all the other fractions combined. In the General Election it has polled only 2,546,694 votes against 4,484,679. If, therefore, the Catholics joined the Liberals, the Government would be left in a hopeless minority. If, on the other hand, the Catholic vote be added to the Cartel, the Government would be in a majority of nearly 1,000,000. It thus follows that if the German Government is still to fight the Socialists and Radicals at all it must go to the Vatican for the means. That is an errand on which no one but Prince BISMARCK can be sent. A working majority has somehow to be made out of the Cartel rump and the Centre. The Chancellor will have to make it.

But having made it, what will he do with it? The Emperor and the Chancellor have agreed, it is said this morning, "as to the measures necessary to prevent injury to the State by any ill-directed current of public opinion"—by which circuitous phrase is meant, we suppose, a fresh Coercion Bill, as a punishment for the Socialist successes. Those successes have, as will be seen from the above table, been enormous. It would not be surprising if they have taken aback even the semi-Socialist Emperor; but we are reluctant to believe that they have converted him to the anti-Socialist Bill. Coercionists are "solid" all the world over, and the *Standard* says to-day that "the result of the elections may "well have shown the Emperor that the Chancellor has not, in the "smallest degree, exaggerated the power and growth of the "Party against which that measure was directed." It may be so; although one would have thought the more obvious moral of the elections was the futility of coercing a party which increases in strength with every turn of the screw. "The old plan failed," says Prince BISMARCK and the *Standard*; "therefore let us try it again." "No," says the voice of Liberalism—and, may we not add, of common sense?—"let us rather try a fresh "tack." Those are the alternatives before the Emperor; and according as he chooses the one or the other, the Chancellor Crisis will be retarded or hastened.

WILL THERE BE A COAL FAMINE?

THE THREATENED GIGANTIC STRIKE, AND ITS EFFECT ON LONDON.

LONDON is hardly alive to the fact that one of the most gigantic miners' strikes ever threatened in this country is a near possibility, and even a probability. On the 15th inst. the Council of the Federated Miners of England met at Westminster, and determined that all the men represented by the delegates assembled should give in their notices to cease work on 15th March, unless in the meantime the coal-owners promised an advance in wages of 10 per cent. Since then some of the miners have given in their notices, and many thousands more have been directed by their leaders to give them in this week, so that we are clearly approaching a crisis. We may live in hope that a universal strike will be averted, but should it occur, or even should an arrangement be postponed till the last moment, we are certain to have a scare in the metropolis. Because of the high prices which have ruled of late, manufacturers, as well as householders, have been keeping their stocks very low, always hoping that the approach of the mild weather would bring about a fall in quotations. The consequence is that gasworks, waterworks, breweries, and other establishments have very small supplies indeed to fall back upon, and the merchants' stocks, although fairly good, would speedily be exhausted. Prices would in that case go up with leaps and bounds. This is, of course, contingent on a strike occurring, and there is always the chance of an amicable arrangement. Both sides are at present showing a bold front, but it is certainly not to the interest of either to carry the dispute to the extreme. The men have got an advance of 30 per cent., but that is not in proportion to the rise which has taken place in the price of coal. For instance, the Marquis of Londonderry, who is the biggest coal-owner in Durham, was selling coal before the upward movement set in at 6s. for which he is now obtaining 14s. 6d. One serious consideration for the owners, however, is the restriction of output by the men, for while higher wages are being paid less coal is being mined, so that there is less fuel to dispose of. This is an important feature in the question which the owners have to decide, but in view of the activity of trade it would no doubt be better for them to concede the rise than stop work. In order to get the best opinion on the prospect, a representative waited on a gentleman who is intimately acquainted and in close touch with most of the English coal-producing districts, and the following are notes of the information obtained:—

"It is very difficult, and even impossible, to say whether an immediate and general strike will take place. I have been to the North and through the Midlands trying to form an opinion, seeing many of the colliery owners, and, now and then, when possible, having a few words with the leaders of the men. It appears to me that there will be strikes in some districts, but not in others. I do not dread any combined big strike, as this Miners' Federation seems to have fallen to pieces. In several of the districts masters and men are negotiating together, and in Durham particularly it is thought that a compromise is certain to be effected, as, though the men blustered a good deal, they are really very reasonable, and trade is far too good for the masters to allow them to go out. No doubt the 5 per cent. advance now offered will be refused; but the masters will then offer 7½ or 10 per cent., which the men, it is expected, will accept, although they demand 15 per cent. With small coals, or screenings, at 9s. 6d. f.o.b., and unscreened gas and manufacturing coals at 13s. 6d. to 14s. 6d. f.o.b., the Durham coal-owners don't mean having a strike if 10 per cent. advance to their men will prevent it. Durham coal has not fallen in price anything to speak of, and many of the collieries still keep steamers waiting three and four days for coal.

"When we come to Yorkshire and North Derbyshire, the outlook is not so satisfactory. The masters have two very good reasons for refusing the advance, but the men know their power and their leaders are thoroughly informed as to the state of trade and mean to stand out. The masters say firstly that the price of house coal will fall materially as soon as mild weather sets in, and

CHIT-CHAT FROM THE CONTINENT.

The "marchand de vin" who has supplied the table of the "boy Orléans" during the imprisonment of the latter at the Conciergerie will no doubt go down to posterity as an historical figure. For this he has to thank only his own genius which inspired him to fix the price for the Prince's provisions at a rate compared to which those paid in "Paris fin de Siècle" are moderation itself.

* * * * *

"No dessert......5 francs" is the rate of payment in the amusing comedy at which Parisians are laughing night after night at the Gymnase, but in the drama in real life the joke is surpassed. When the Duc de Luynes, the fatherly friend of Duke Louis Philippe, asked for "the little bill" of the prisoner, a document was handed to him, bearing: he address à sa Majesté Louis Philippe Robert, Duc d'Orléans, and containing a detailed account of the delicacies which had been supplied to "his Majesty." Among them were the following:—

One artichoke	12 francs.	One chicken	25 francs.
One sole	10 ,,	Six prawns	15 ,,
One lobster..................	25 ,,	One dish of fruit...........	15 ,,

To the mild remonstrances of the old Duke at the *marchand de vin's* flights of imagination the son of the Comte de Paris replied magnanimously: "What do those small details matter? The Republic has given me free lodgings, and we ought not to grumble at the price of the food."

* * * * *

The preparations for Wissmann's African expedition are in full swing at Hamburg. Among the objects which are now being shipped are several complete houses, which can be taken to pieces; a hundred carrier pigeons, presented by various clubs, and eight mules, taken out with the idea of substituting them for horses, who succumb easily to the bites of the insects to which they are incessantly exposed.

* * * * *

An attempt is being made at Paris to induce society ladies to extend their patronage at the theatre, which is now confined to the boxes, to the stalls and dress circle. The chief reason for this attempted innovation seems to be that the men who accompany the fair Parisian mondaines have got tired of taking back seats in the depth of the boxes behind their ladies, where they see very little of the audience and less of the play. The aristocratic Frenchwoman, however, shrinks more from publicity than even the British matron, and the proposal is therefore almost certainly doomed to failure.

One of the dodges by which the Social Democrats at Berlin tried to raise votes for their party at last week's elections was to threaten the waiters in the restaurants and public-houses of the poorer quarters, that they would cause all the working men frequenting the beer-houses to stop "tips" to the waiters who would not promise to vote "straight." What this would mean to the waiters is only realized when it is remembered that a large number of them are entirely dependent on what customers may give them, receiving only board and lodging as payment for their services, and that even in the most favourable cases the pay of a waiter at a low-class establishment only amounts to about a shilling a day.

* * * * *

The Berlin waiters, however, have learned that the best antidote to coercion is co-operation. On hearing of the decree of the Social Democrats, they called a meeting, which was largely attended, and where they agreed that, so far from doing the bidding of the would-be coercionists, they would compel their employers to pay no less than 30 marks wages a month to their waiters, besides board and lodging, and that all work done on Sundays and holidays is to be paid extra.

* * * * *

The tercentenary of the death of Christoph Plantyn, the famous Dutch printer, will be celebrated during the summer at Amsterdam. Bookworms from all parts of the world will be invited to attend the festivities, which include a conference of lovers of old books, and an exhibition of curious and rare old volumes. Mr. Vandenpeereboom, the Dutch Minister of Commerce, and one of the greatest collectors of old books, will be honorary president, the mayor of Amsterdam, Mr. De Wael, will act as chairman, and several other authorities on the subject of ancient tomes are on the committee.

* * * * *

It appears that from the beginning of November, 1888, to the end of May, 1889, cut flowers to the value of over £142,773 were sent abroad from Cannes, of which the majority went to Berlin and other large towns in Germany. The art of arranging fresh flowers artistically is said to be most successfully practised by German lady-florists, a large number of whom make a comfortable living by this employment. The trade has, during the last few years, been particularly flourishing, gifts of fresh flowers being very popular with all classes in Germany. Not only is every family festivity made the occasion of gifts of flowers, but the custom of bestowing bouquets or posies on the parting guest or friend is greatly increasing. The rich lady takes her magnificent baskets and fanciful bouquets into her carriage as she takes leave of her friends at the station, and the poor woman carries away her pot of fuchsia or mignonette, wrapped in a piece of pink tissue paper, and ornamented with a bit of ribbon.

secondly, that if they concede this 10 per cent. another advance will be asked for in two or three months. They add that they will have to fight the men, and may as well do it sooner as later: there cannot be a better time than the middle of March to begin the battle.

"I did not visit North Wales and Lancashire, as hardly any coal comes to London from those districts.

"In North Staffordshire I was informed that the men would follow the lead of the Yorkshire miners, who are the best paid and most determined colliers in the kingdom. The leaders of the Yorkshiremen also, although, no doubt, most objectionable in many ways, are always well informed as to the state of trade, and are the most influential among the federated delegates.

"In South Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, and Warwickshire, I found the men in a most friendly frame of mind towards the owners, but absolutely confident of getting the advance demanded. The great reasons they urge for the colliery-owners being able and willing to give the extra 10 per cent., are the very high prices of what used to be refuse coals, namely, slacks of various descriptions, and the enormous and sustained activity in the manufacturing districts of the Midland Counties. As to the masters, most of them said very boldly that they would not give way. Some said that if their neighbours gave the advance they would, and others said plainly that they could not afford to stop at the moment, that a compromise must and would be effected with the men now, and that the fight must come later on.

"On returning to London and thinking the matter thoroughly over I have come to the conclusion that in those districts of the Midlands which send large quantities of house and gas coals to London and the East and South of England, it may suit the masters to have a strike. They may enter into negotiations and put off the stoppage for an extra fortnight, but a strike then would carry them over the slack time, and it would besides exhaust the men's funds. Afterwards the masters might or might not be compelled to give the advance, but prices would have improved and trade and the men would probably be settled for the next twelve months. Besides, the opening of the Baltic (which affects the Barnsley and West Yorkshire districts) does not really begin before the middle of April, and any strike would be about over by then.

"The public may congratulate themselves that the Miners' Federation has practically broken down, and that even if a partial strike does occur in the Midland Counties, good supplies of coal will be available (of course at high prices) from other districts. In Northumberland the men are settled, and no one in Newcastle believes in a Durham strike. With coke at its present price, and their old low-priced contracts for coals almost finished, the owners would indeed be foolish not to agree with their men, and, I understand, they have fully resolved that a strike shall on no account occur in Durham.

"Of course it is possible that the colliery owners in other districts may follow the Durham owners, and that there may be no strike at all. But I feel certain that the revival of trade throughout the country is so general and so sound that the men will everywhere get the advance they now stand out for sooner or later. There are no stocks of coal throughout the country, and the enormous pressure which would be brought to bear on the colliery owners by manufacturers, ironmasters, gas companies, &c., would cause any strike to end within a week."

A DREARY DISCUSSION.

IN THE HOUSE YESTERDAY. BY AN OBSERVER.

IT was half-past twelve yesterday before forty members out of our 670 legislators gathered together to form a quorum. The only question on the paper was by an Irish member, Mr. Carew, who tried, but failed, to extract information from the Chief Secretary with regard to an incident at Clongorey. Mr. Labouchere then quietly announced that on Friday he would call attention to a "grave matter connected with the administration of justice." This announcement of a debate on the Cleveland-street case was received on the Treasury Bench with a half-pleading, half-threatening, declaration that Supply must be finished on Friday night, in order to clear the ground for the debate on the Special Commissioners' Report.

In a brief speech Mr. Foley, who was evidently rather nervous, then moved the second reading of the Poor Law Guardians (Ireland) Bill. The objects of this "hardy annual" are, to introduce voting by ballot in the election of guardians; to limit plural voting; to limit the number of *ex officio* members; to abolish the practice of voting by proxy. Mr. John O'Connor seconded and Colonel Waring opposed. The latter, speaking as a resident Irish landlord, said that he fully appreciated the evils of absenteeism, but he was opposed to all the provisions of the present bill, except to the clauses introducing the ballot. Mr. Flynn pointed out how extremely moderate the measure was. It still allowed one man to enjoy as many as eighteen votes, and the number of *ex officio* members was only limited to one-third of the elected members. And yet most Irishmen looked upon the *ex officios* as an unmitigated nuisance. They left all the drudgery of the work to the elected members, and only put in an appearance at the board meetings when there was a chance of perpetrating a job. Captain Verney, in a speech of commendable brevity, expressed his approval of the bill, and gave notice that he would move in Committee that its provisions be extended to England. After some remarks by Mr. Gilhooly, Mr. T. W. Russell said that he should vote for the second reading of the bill, but would move several amendments in Committee. Mr. Sexton argued that the present discussion was a strong instance of the incapacity of Parliament to deal with Irish questions. This bill had now been before the House in one form or another for nearly twenty years, and still it was not an Act. Sir John Colomb opposed the bill—which he said he had not read—and at the same time lectured the Irish members for talking about things which they did not understand. "How many of them," he asked, "have any knowledge of the actual working of the Poor Law in Ireland?"

After a few words from Colonel Nolan, Mr. Balfour at length rose to declare the intentions of the Government. He was in favour, he said, of voting by ballot for Poor Law Guardians, and he was in favour of one or two other smaller points in the bill. But he was strenuously opposed to any provisions for diminishing the power of the *ex officio* members, or the influence of property. The Government would not, however, oppose the second reading of the bill, but would bring forward amendments in Committee. When Mr. Balfour sat down, Sir George Trevelyan, who had been taking profuse notes, felt bound to relieve himself of the matter he had accumulated. The resulting speech was dreary beyond measure, and only occasionally relevant to the question under discussion. Then followed a series of still drearier speeches from the Irish benches. Mr. Clancy told Colonel Waring that there were at least twenty Irish members who were members of boards of guardians in Ireland, and Mr. Blaine pleaded with the Attorney-General for Ireland to give way to the wishes of the Irish people in such a small matter as this. Finally, the second reading was carried without a division, and Mr. Foley immediately asked the Speaker if he would be in order in moving the discharge of the bill. On the suggestion of the Speaker the same object was attained by moving that the Committee on the bill be taken this day six months.

The House then passed to the Intoxicating Liquors (Ireland) Hours of Sale Bill, which was talked out. The County Councils Association Expenses Bill passed its second reading without opposition, and the report of several votes in supply was received. On the vote for Bechuanaland, Mr. Baumann protested against the views expressed yesterday by her Majesty's Government with regard to the Swaziland question. But Baron De Worms insisted that the responsibility of deciding the colonial and Imperial policy of the country rested with the Government, and that the Government could not wait till the question had been discussed in the House before coming to a decision. At 5.55 the House adjourned.

NEW FRENCH BANK NOTES.

The Bank of France will to-day commence issuing a new type of one-thousand-franc notes. Like the new five hundred, one hundred, and fifty franc notes, they have a violet colour, obtained by the use of blue and light pink. The new one thousand franc notes are of the same size as the old notes. The date of their creation, the number, and the signatures are printed in black ink.

A WHOLESOME FAMILY BEVERAGE.—ROSE'S LIME JUICE CORDIAL is entirely free of spirit, and supplies a delicious drink in water, assisting digestion, cooling and purifying the blood. Recommended by the *Lancet*. Purchasers should order ROSE'S CORDIAL, and obtain the Genuine Article.

OCCASIONAL NOTES.

The Liberal party will rejoice at the energetic way in which Sir William Harcourt and Sir Charles Russell carried the war into the enemy's camp yesterday. After the speeches of Lord Selborne and Baron De Worms, the Unionists have, as we pointed out yesterday, been refuted, in their attempts to parry the Report, out of their own mouths. It only remains to rub the refutation well in. Sir William and Sir Charles have begun this necessary task excellently well—each in his own way, the one by copiousness of vituperative epigram, the other by closeness of logical reasoning. Yesterday's campaign on the platform is an earnest, we hope, of a vigorous charge in the House next week.

Sir William Harcourt, we are glad to see, specially emphasised our question to the *Times* about Mr. Caine's letter. The *Times* replies that it at any rate publishes Sir William's speech. Yes, but Sir William is a Home Ruler; Mr. Caine is a Unionist. Of course, the *Times* must see that this just makes all the difference. Why, therefore, has it not the honesty and candour to publish Mr. Caine's letter? This is for the fourth time of asking.

To-night the Western Australia Bill is to be introduced. It should be referred to a Select Committee as soon as possible. As the subject has progressed it has become abundantly complicated. That is the worst of these perplexing little colonial questions. There is just as much to be said about them, in the opinion of those on the spot, as there is about our own cherished *crucs* of home politics, only they are some way farther off. The public has not the information, the Colonial Office has not the pluck, and the House of Commons has not the time to take them properly in hand. So we shall go on till we get an Imperial Chamber which occasionally has half an hour to spare for other things than the town-pump provincialisms of England, Ireland, and Scotland. Meanwhile, this Western Australia business must be well thrashed out before the Select Committee; and nothing that we have said on the subject of reservation of unsettled land must be interpreted against the principle of Home Rule for every English-speaking community which has reached the point of fitness.

France has had the good sense, we see, to bow to the inevitable. The attempt to run Berne against Berlin failed owing to the former declining to start, and France has recognized that the abandonment of the Swiss Conference requires an alteration in its attitude towards the Berlin one. A "golden bridge" has been found in the use of French at the Conference, and France will send some of its most eminent economists to Berlin. Every one will be glad of this happy restoration of the "European Concord." The aim of every one should be not (like Lord Salisbury) to limit the scope of its deliberations, but to make it as wide as possible.

> *"The company had got free from the Union, and the directors meant to keep free."*

So said Mr. Livesey in the pæan of victory which he chanted to the shareholders of the South Metropolitan Gas Company yesterday. Mr. Livesey has thus admitted in the hour of triumph what he denied in the hour of trial; for no one has forgotten with what emphasis he then declared that the directors neither sought nor desired to break up the Union, but had introduced the profit-sharing scheme simply and solely on its own merits. Mr. Livesey is a strong man; but what about his sincerity?

From time to time Chief Baron Palles deserves well of his country. There were two R.M.'s who saw a paragraph in the *Leinster Leader* of which they disapproved. "Come," said they, "let us put somebody in prison." So they pitched on one Henry O'Connor—not that he was proved to have had anything to do with the paragraph, or even with the paper at the time, but they thought he would do as well as anybody. So, remembering that they were in Ireland, they clapped Henry O'Connor into gaol. There he would even now be expiating somebody else's offence (if it was an offence at all) with all the accessories of hard labour, had not the Queen's Bench made short work of the refusal of those two R.M.'s to state a case. Forthwith Chief Baron Palles, as in justice bound, pointed out the colossal illegality of the imprisonment. It had occurred to the R.M.'s that they must plead something, so they pleaded some judgment or other of the Chief Baron's. "But," said the Chief Baron with refreshing vigour, "it does not come within a hundred miles of the case!"

The House of Commons yesterday supplied an object lesson in the necessity for Home Rule. The bill under discussion related to a purely Irish question. The English members neither understood nor cared to understand anything about it. They abandoned the House entirely to the Irish members and to the Irish Secretary. And yet it was in English hands that lay the decision as to the fate of the Bill. Mr. Balfour, elected by an English majority to rule over Ireland, declared that he would only accept a few fragments of the proposed measure, and after five hours' wearisome discussion the bill was virtually abandoned. Meanwhile there are scores of English and Scotch measures waiting for the attention of Parliament, but that attention is refused, and must be refused, until the Irish are allowed to settle their own local affairs in the way that pleases them best. One may judge, by the way, how little likely Ministers are to make their Local Government Bill a reality by the meagreness of the concessions which Mr. Balfour was prepared to make in the matter of poor law guardians.

We shall probably have yet another new judge or two on the bench in the course of the next few weeks. The legal air is full of rumours of resignation and elevation. We take the opportunity to make a suggestion to Lord Halsbury and his successors. It is not easy to foretell who will make a good judge. Brilliant advocates have made some of the worst, and "good lawyers" have not always made the best. The surprises, both in excellence and failure, have been many. The truth is, a judge should be tested before he is appointed, and there is machinery for doing this without any loss of dignity to bench or bar. The Lord Chancellor must know that at any moment there may be a vacancy to fill, and he should know—that is, he should have well in his mind—who are the likely men to fill it. Now on circuit, when the judges are overworked or insufficient, there is power to appoint one of the leaders as Commissioner. He becomes journeyman judge, and discharges judicial functions for the nonce. It is easy to see whether he has in him the stuff of which a good judge is made. This was done in the case of the present Mr. Justice Vaughan Williams, and if it were done oftener we should probably have better appointments and certainly not have London left so destitute of judicial strength when once the circuits go out.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A GOOD WORD FOR THE POLICE.

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—At 1.30 yesterday I left a leather paper-case with my name on it in a hansom cab at Charing-cross Bridge. At 3.10 yesterday it was brought to me by a police messenger from Scotland-yard, at the County Council meeting at Guildhall. We sometimes grumble; let us be grateful too.—Yours, &c.

T. H. FARRER.

27, *Bryanston-square, W., February* 26.

AND A BAD.

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—Can you tell me to whom I must look for protection in cases such as the following? A day or two ago I walked from Charing Cross to Waterloo station, over Hungerford Bridge, between two and three o'clock in the afternoon. When I had arrived near the centre of the bridge two burly ruffians, youths of about twenty to twenty-three years of age, rushed passed me, shouting and yelling. Close behind them was a third of the band, who, while uttering a hideous war-whoop, struck me a horrible blow as he passed, and triumphantly joined his companions. After recovering from my surprise, indignation, and keen physical pain, I went on and told the policeman on the bridge what had happened, asking him to look into the matter. He turned round very leisurely to where the three ruffians were hanging over the bridge, jeering and shouting, some thirty yards in front of me, but said only: "I can't go to that part of the bridge now; I am on my way to the other end; and even if I went after them, they would be gone before I could come up to them." Seeing that there was some truth in the last statement (the movements of the policeman being extremely measured), I went on, the ruffians still in front of me, and tried once more at Waterloo to obtain the help of the policeman stationed at the entrance to the station. He was a "station servant," and bade me go to the top of York-road for the man who had charge of the street, But what would have been the good of that, seeing that the ruffians were already trying to make off?

I have hitherto scorned the term of "unprotected female," holding that any woman who is not a fool or a flirt can walk about anywhere in London without being molested; but after this insult in broad daylight I begin to think differently, and am, indeed, tempted to forget manners and turn round in self-protection whenever I hear a quick step behind me in the street.—I am, &c.,

X.

"A BUDDHIST CATECHISM."

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—In thanking you for your kindly notice of this book, I shall be glad if you will allow me to state that the compiler is, literally and fully, as he professes to be, a genuine "Bhikshu," or "vowed mendicant," who has never set foot in England and is but imperfectly acquainted with our language; but that he is at the same time familiar with Western culture, and is the last person to "masquerade" under an assumed character. It is probably the fact that the book is translated by an Englishman, and the omission of any statement to that effect, which has misled your reviewer.

THE TRANSLATOR.

THE LICENSING MUDDLE.

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—To-night, over my evening meal, I read the Note in to-day's issue as to the payment of dog licences in the residential district, and was thereby reminded that I had not taken one out for my animal this year. Anxious to repair the omission, and also to comply with the request of the Middlesex County Council, I have just (7.30 P.M.) visited the local post-office, only to learn that dog licences cannot be issued before 9 A.M. and after 6 P.M., and I had consequently to come away without one. This regulation is no doubt largely responsible for such taxes being paid in the City, for there are many who cannot attend at the local offices between those hours, and must perforce pay elsewhere. The County Councils should endeavour to get the time extended if they wish to secure the proceeds of such payments.—I am, sir, yours, &c.,

RUS IN URBE.

Harringay, February 26.

TO LORD SELBORNE: AN EXPLANATION NEEDED.

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—Lord Selborne, of course, is incapable of "deliberately misleading" any audience that he addresses. When, therefore, in the same speech he makes two statements that are mutually destructive, the simple-minded reader is puzzled to know what to make of it. I invite his lordship to explain, if he can, the occurrence of the two following statements in his speech the other evening at the Criterion Restaurant, before the Liberal Union Club. Referring to the Report of the Parnell Commission, he said, according to the *Times* report:

> Knowing that I might have to address you on this subject, I have carefully abstained from reading anything which has been said or written about it by others. Therefore, whatever I say is the result of my own study of the important document which is now before the people of England.

Some sixty lines further down in the same *Times* Report, we have this statement, still referring to the Report of the Commission:

> And seeing, *as I do*, a somewhat startling variety of opinion which is entertained, or at least expressed, in various quarters as to that result, I am very glad to perceive, &c.

Would Lord Selborne kindly explain how he has been able to see the "startling variety of opinion expressed in various quarters" as to the meaning of the Report if he has "carefully abstained from reading anything which has been said or written about it by others"?—Yours truly,

EXPECTANS.

MITCHELL *v.* REGINA.

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—Kindly permit me, the luckless plaintiff in this case, to appeal through your columns for aid to save me from ruin in the course pursued against me. This test case, commenced in the Court of Queen's Bench January 11 and concluded on the 4th February, was fully reported in the press of the 13th January and 5th of February. Her most gracious Majesty the Queen was pleased to sign with her own sign-manual, under the words "Let right be done," my humble petition, presented under the Petition of Right Act of July, 1860, on, I understand, the advice of the Attorney-General. The Court of Queen's Bench have not heard the case, as the judge has ruled, as I understand, that an officer has "no rights," and the petition cannot be heard at all. Also that the "Secretary of State for War's decisions and determinations are final and binding, and that this honourable court hath no power to go behind it." I have lodged an appeal to the Equity Lords, or Court of Appeal, as I am advised the Secretary of State for War is not greater than "She who wears the crown." But I have just received a letter from my solicitor telling me that the War Office agents have delivered to him a bill of costs of between £200 and £300. As I cannot afford to employ legal advice, I have claimed my right to appear before the taxing master next Thursday; and perhaps I may be permitted to make such statements as in the interests of the public and the taxpayers it is well should be brought out into the bright sunshine of public criticism. May I venture to ask those of your readers who do not wish to see an officer hounded to ruin because he has dared to stand on his constitutional rights and for the authority of the Queen whom he has loved and served for 31½ years to send me at once practical sympathy to my "Petition of Right Fund," care of Messrs. William Watson and Co., bankers, 27, Leadenhall-street, London, E.C. I am informed that the Attorney-General, though acting for the War Office, has such an opinion of the course pursued against me that he has twice advised that my claim—£2,405 with interest—be at once settled on an equitable and honourable basis. I understand certain persons at the War Office successfully oppose the settlement, although the Duke of Cambridge three years age officially recommended my claim for favourable consideration.—I have the honour to be, yours truly,

EDWARD MITCHELL

Junior Conservative Club, Albemarle-street, Piccadilly, Feb. 24.

CHURCH AND CHAPEL AT THE EAST-END.—IV.

(By our Special Commissioner.)

The Bishop of Bedford's advocacy of dancing under the direct sanction of the Church, and his statement that East-end balls were more decorous than West-end ones, startled the "unco guid" at the Cardiff Church Congress last year; but his view is carried into practical effect by many of the clergy in the East-end.

The Church and "Cakes and Ale."

The Bishop himself was present not long ago at an unusually good entertainment at St. Augustine's, Stepney, and spoke most unaffectedly and good-naturedly to the lads and lasses as well as the old folk who looked on; and when he was at Spitalfields he encouraged all kinds of amusements, both out of doors in the summer and indoors in the winter. At St. Antony's Mrs. Martell and Miss Irving, with their successful women's club, have been fortunate enough to secure invaluable amateur help for all kinds of performances from members of the Stock Exchange. At the Eton Mission at Hackney Wick the Rev. H. C. Dimsdale has been most successful in night after night depleting the neighbouring public-houses by the performance of a pantomime. Mr. Plummer's dances for the Church and School Board teachers and his Congregational "At homes" at St. Paul's are thoroughly appreciated. In St. Dunstan's parish men's and boys' clubs of all kinds abound. There is one especially for "roughs," who are a beautiful sight under the firm discipline of the gymnasium sergeant. They are, says the Rector of Stepney, "a comic lot with much good in them, but furnishing the material also for infinite mischief. Discipline is what they require, but discipline they never got until recently." During the year Mr. Hoskyns also says the sisters and sweethearts of the above young gentlemen have been successfully tackled. To deal with them you must, he adds, have "the patience of an angel, the wisdom of a judge, the firmness of a sergeant-major, and after it all they will jump up and go and have a good fight or a good drink, and want you to skip with them along the street." Mr. Hoskyns insists that this is very real mission work, for out of his gymnasium class he has got 120 recruits, between fourteen and twenty, for his Bible-class, forty of whom have been confirmed.

The Religion of Dancing.

Oxford House is, however, the great centre of amusements for the locality. I do not mention the People's Palace, where Sir E. H. Currie does so much with the best results to amuse the people, as, though the Rector of Stepney is one of the trustees, and does much to encourage all that is done, it is not distinctly Church work; but Mr. Ingram, the head of the Oxford House, says distinctly that he regards having a hand in the amusements of the people as a step to leading them first to come and have a talk in a hall and then to church. Those who wish to see how he has succeeded should have been with him one Saturday night not long ago, when the people stood out in the rain long before the doors were opened, and numbers were turned away, while the room was literally packed with men, women, and children who were enchanted by the performance of "Black-eyed Susan," which was well mounted and acted with real skill by the amateur dramatists. It was especially satisfactory to see how heartily the people cheered all that was good and noble and true. In the same hall on Sunday night a new organ was opened at the mission service at 8.30 P.M., after the churches are closed, and there was solo-singing, a conversational address by Mr. Ingram, and an organ recital. Mr. Ingram finds that Sunday afternoon discussions on religious questions, or on such topics as evolution, attract the men who are in the clubs—he has 1,200 men in one club and 500 boys in another—who would not come to church. He admits the great difficulty of getting the men to church—which is the final step—but the crowded state of St. Andrew's, of which the Hon. and Rev. E. Lawley, formerly of the Eton Mission, is the vicar, next door to the Oxford House, testifies to the influence of that institution. Mr. Ingram gave an address on the Church and Recreation a few days ago to the Sunday-school teachers of the rural deanery of Stepney, in which he said:—"Some people seem to think that the devil gave man his body; but God did, and He wishes to see His children happy. The prophet, in drawing a picture of Heaven, speaks of children playing in the streets thereof." Going on to argue that the Church should encourage games of all kinds—cricket, football, billiards, and dancing—he was met with warm opposition by the teachers and some clergy, including the Rector of Spitalfields, who thought the whole duty of the parson was to preach Christ. Mr. Ingram may well be content with the way in which he is gradually raising the whole moral tone of the neighbourhood. The balls are very popular. Each member of the club may introduce one lady friend, and the Vicar of Leeds being present at one lately said the only fault he had to find with it was that the dancers were too sedate.

The Oxford Club.

Mr. Ingram took me over the Oxford Club, where there is a comfortable reading-room, but where the chief attraction is the large number of billiard tables, which are nightly in great request, and bring in a considerable income. Chess, draughts, dominoes, and other games, with at times music and dancing, make the club a real palace of delight, and it actually secures a larger nightly attendance than the adjacent museum. Choral societies, rowing clubs, gymnastics of all kinds, as well as cricket and football clubs, cluster round this excellent institution, which is managed by working men themselves, and where it is hoped the labour question may be partially solved by the members making their own clothes and boots and selling them. I saw some boots made on the spot which would have done no discredit to Oxford or Regent-street shops, and could be had at a much less figure. In short, the effort here, as on a less extensive and organized scale in many other parts of the East-end over and above ordinary concerts and penny readings, is to help men to obtain the blessing of "mens sana in corpore sano." I asked a working man distributing tracts in the street in the neighbourhood what he thought of Oxford Hall, and he said, "I go when I can afford it; but I am a Dissenter, and I don't quite hold with so much amusement." After a little further talk I said to him, "Do the really poor go; for the men seem so well dressed?" He drew himself up and replied, "You do not know the East-end, sir. Even our hearthstone girls wear thirty-shilling feathers in their hats. The respectable poor always can afford a good coat." Whilst I thought it was to be regretted that so much money was wasted on feathers, I said to myself, My friend in the street confirms the striking language of Esmé Hope in a novel which I had been reading only the night before, and which my own East-end experiences largely confirm: "We East-enders are not all poor. Some of us are far better off than many of the ill-paid clerks who live in cheap suburban districts. The wealthy inhabitants of Belgravia ought to know that in the miles of streets about Bethnal-green there are thousands of people able and willing to help the poor at their own doors." Assuredly the East-end is not a waste, howling wilderness to be patronized. It is not at present yet a very church-going population, but as a small shopkeeper to whom I was speaking said, "When the poor man does go to church he generally goes from really religious motives. Can you say as much for the fine lady, who wants to show off her fine clothes?" As the clergy and churchworkers take a kindly and not patronizing or prying interest in the social wants, habits, employments, and amusements of the people, they are raising their moral and intellectual tone, and taking the surest way to gradually leading them on to think of something above bodily exercises, occupations, and amusements.

(The preceding article in this series appeared on February 17.)

ROBERTSON'S PLAYS.*

Delightful to the general reader, priceless to the student of the stage, are these two volumes of "cup-and-saucer comedies" by the inventor of that curious and eminently modern dramatic form. There are sixteen plays in the 800 pages, or thereabouts, to which the volumes extend; and of these, only six can properly be called cup-and-saucer comedies. The rest are melodramas, romantic dramas, farces, and adaptations—interesting to those who want to study the author's talent as a whole, but all (except the adaptations) more or less unsuccessful. Mr. T. W. Robertson junior is eager to refute the theory that his father never succeeded except at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, and quotes a letter from Mr. John Hollingshead to show that "Dreams" was played at the Gaiety for ninety-six nights, "to receipts that most managers would consider excellent." This proves that he, once at least, scored a financial success with an original play produced elsewhere than at the little Tottenham-street house; but no one who reads "Dreams" will consider it other than an artistic failure. The fable is preposterous, the writing is flat and pretentious. Any success it attained must have been due to some novel scenic devices which seem to have come out effectively. It must not be forgotten, too, that the author's sister, Miss Madge Robertson, then in the first bloom of youth and talent, played the heroine, Lady Clara Vere de Vere. "Birth," written for Sothern, is another piece of strange and stilted romanticism, showing a certain dubious originality combined with indubitable maladroitness. "Breach of Promise" is a childish farce, compared with which "The Private Secretary" seems a great literary achievement. As for "The Nightingale" and "War," their utter and disastrous failure on the stage requires no explanation to any one who struggles through the text. There remain a few adaptations, such as "David Garrick" and "Home," which show the writer's peculiar touch more or less clearly, and the six Prince of Wales's plays, from "Society" to "M.P.," all of them scarcely less entertaining to read than to see. We could wish that Robertson's adaptation of "On ne Badine pas avec l'Amour," entitled "Passion Flowers," had been included in the collection. His treatment of Alfred de Musset's work would afford a valuable criterion of his literary tact; and besides, the piece is a "document" in the history of Mrs. Kendal's early career, for she it was who created the heroine.

Mr. T. W. Robertson's memoir of his father is exceedingly artless from a literary point of view, and not always so accurate as might be desired. Mr. Robertson is especially unfortunate in his genealogical information. The "Mr. Robertson" whom Tate Wilkinson found an established favourite at York in 1765 can scarcely have been the grandfather of T. W. Robertson and Mrs. Kendal: unless we suppose that a man of at least sixty, and probably a good deal more, married a girl of sixteen and became the father of seven children. The biographer has clearly got his generations mixed—the York comedian must have been the dramatist's great-grandfather. "This young couple," Mr. Robertson goes on to say, "had six children—Georgina, Henry, William, Fanny, Caroline, Maria, and Eliza." Five daughters and two sons are generally held to constitute a family of seven. Despite such inadvertences, Mr. Robertson's memoir contains much that is new and interesting, and adds greatly to the value of the edition.

* "The Principal Dramatic Works of Thomas William Robertson." With Memoir by his Son. (London: Sampson Low and Co. and Samuel French.)

The Ladies' Corner.

The Story of "Toby."

"The Story of Victor" has evidently touched a sympathetic chord in the heart of many lady readers; for letters of condolence with the trials of his mistress are pouring in upon us, together with admonitory epistles setting forth the wickedness of the benighted dog-owner who did not train a dog in the ways in which he should walk.

The following tale of woe, though it does not "cap" the story of Victor, who seems to have been one of the vilest and most ungrateful of the race of fox terriers, shows that some of the peculiar vices distinguishing him are not confined to the canine aristocracy.

"The dog" (writes "A. L. R.") "is a faithful animal; everybody says so; yet, alas! I too have been the victim of one of those exceptions which prove the rule. Until now I have been ashamed to tell the story, for I loved that dog. He was not a dog of high degree, but one of the lowest of mongrels; but I thought to eradicate all low instincts; so when he went visiting and prolonged his stay beyond the furthest time laid down by society, I gently but firmly pointed out to him—with the clothes-brush or anything else handy—that even a worm will turn, and two or three o'clock in the early morn is the best time to observe that peculiarity. He didn't mind much, but he got tired at last and preferred to sit on the steps until morning. He was annoyed at having to do that, so we got no milk and lost several good patients because he objected to anyone touching the bell. One day he went home with our surgery boy: he is a good boy, but his home is not pleasant or clean. Toby liked that style. He went there again and again of his own accord. I felt hurt, but he seemed to be delighted to see me when he did come home, which was less and less often as time went on. His visits were not lengthy, and chiefly spent in the kitchen. I noticed, too, that they generally occurred on Thursday or Friday, when money—and consequently food—is scarce in his new home. He was a fascinating dog, with any number of funny ways. I have not seen him now for five months, but my faith in dogs, even now, is not quite destroyed."

"A Dog-Lover," meanwhile, takes the part of the dogs, and writes:—"Your correspondent's clever account of her experiences with 'Victor' will probably draw answers from dog-loving readers of the *Pall Mall Gazette*. The story is amusing and instructive, but yet it is sad. For surely the lady, by spoiling the dog and making herself a slave to his every caprice, failed to educate his *moral* sense; and the dog, thus taken out of his station, failed to recognize the master hand over him. The fidelity of a dog to his master assumes a position of dependence on the one hand, and of authority on the other. When authority stoops to obey, how can the dependant do otherwise than assume the command? A spoilt child who orders his parents about with peevish impatience shows us a like sad spectacle. I do not think I shall ever 'enter the service' of another dog. No; train a dog to be obedient and true to his higher nature, or don't keep one at all."

TO-DAY'S NEW BOOKS.

[Publishers would greatly oblige by stating the prices of books. Any notices under this head do not preclude further review should such seem to be necessary.]

Seth, Andrew, M.A. "Scottish Philosophy." (Blackwood and Sons.)
[The Balfour lectures at the University of Edinburgh; being a Comparison of the Scottish and German Answers to Hume." Second edition. Cloth. Pp. xiv., 222. Price 5s.]

"The Medical Annual and Practitioner's Index. (Bristol: John Wright and Co.)
[The eighth annual issue of an indispensable work of reference for medical practitioners. Cloth, pp. 656.]

Tolstoi, Leon. "Boyhood, Adolescence, and Youth." (Elliot Stock.)
[Translated from the Russian by Constantine Popoff. Cloth. Pp. 480.]

Wells, David A. "Recent Economic Changes." (Longmans, Green, and Co.)
[Cloth. Pp. xii., 494. Price 10s. 6d.]

Westcott, Brooke Foss, D.D. "From Strength to Strength: Three Sermons on Stages in a Consecrated Life." (Macmillan and Co.)
[Dedicated to the memory of the late Bishop of Durham. Cloth. Pp. 58.]

Woodford, Charles Morris. "A Naturalist Among the Head-Hunters." (Philip and Son.)
[An account of three visits to the Solomon Islands in the years 1886, 1887, and 1888. Cloth. Pp. xii., 260. Maps and Illustrations. Price 8s. 6d.]

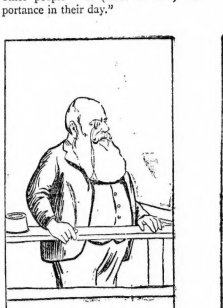
Bord's Pianos.—25 per cent. discount for cash, or 10s. per month (Second-hand, 10s. 6d. per month) on the three years' system. Illustrated Lists free of CHAS. STILES and CO., 42, SOUTHAMPTON ROW, HOLBORN, W.C. Pianos exchanged.

VIGNETTES FROM "VANITY FAIR."

The twenty-first volume of the *Vanity Fair* Album, like each of the preceding twenty, excellently represents contemporary caricature: an art less powerful, no doubt, than in the classic days of Hogarth and of Rowlandson, but more humane and scarcely less vivid. In one melancholy respect this volume will be singular among its fellows. It is the last to exemplify the pencil of Ape. A portrait of Pellegrini himself, the caricaturist caricatured, appears in the gallery of this volume to commemorate his loss. Another of the *Vanity Fair* artists is here depicted, Mr. Leslie Ward; but "Spy's" is, happily, no posthumous portrait. We give below a few sketches of clever examples. Besides these, the volume contains characteristic presentments in their habits as they live of Lord Grimthorpe, Blowitz, Arthur Cecil, Chauncey Depew, M. Eiffel, the Duke of Fife, and some scores of other people "of (more or less) importance in their day."



Sir Henry Isaacs. (Spy.)



Pigott. (Spy.)



Mr. Murphy, Q.C. (Spy.)



Randolph as a Turfite. (Lib.)



"The Pink 'Un" (Mr. Corlett). (Lib.)



Sarasate. (Ape.)



Barnum. (Spy.)



Colonel North. (Spy.)



John Porter (the crack trainer). (Lib.)

The popularity of FRY'S PURE CONCENTRATED COCOA is rapidly increasing, and where once tried its delicious flavour and agreeable qualities secure for it a permanent place in the household dietary. Highly recommended by many eminent physicians, for young children and delicate persons, to whom tea is injurious. To secure this article ask for FRY'S PURE CONCENTRATED COCOA.

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SAVOY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, R. D'OYLY CARTE. This and EVERY EVENING, at 8.30, the entirely original Comic Opera in Two Acts, entitled THE GONDOLIERS, by W. S. GILBERT and ARTHUR SULLIVAN. Doors open at 8. MORNING PERFORMANCE EVERY SATURDAY, at 2.30. Doors open at 2. Box-office open daily from 9 A.M. till 11 P.M.

ROYAL AQUARIUM.—The Barnes Ballet and Pantomimic Troupe; Herr Schalkenbach with his mysterious Orchestrian; Professor Baker's Naval Spectacle, "The Armada;" Oscar and Charley; Barnum's Zulus; Syretti, contortionist; Fred Paulsen, the American Champion Weight Lifter; Adelaide and Lilian; the Six Sunbeams; the wonderful Leopolds; M. Servais Le Roy, Marvellous Belgian Conjuror; the Pelhams; the Brothers Modolzoff; the Brewster Minstrel Troupe; SCOTT EDWARDES, Reciter. Open at 12, close at 11.30 P.M. Admission 1s., children 6d. MAGNETTA, novel illusion, on view all day. Dr. ONOFROFF, the Remarkable Thought Reader, in the Theatre, at 4.5 and 9.10.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—WELSH PROMENADE CONCERT on ST. DAVID'S DAY, SATURDAY, March 1, at 8. Welsh Ballads will be sung by Miss Anna Williams, Miss Mary Morgan, Mr. Hirwen Jones, and Mr. Egbert Roberts. Welsh Selections by Military Band, under direction of Mr. CHARLES GODFREY, jun. 6,000 seats and Grand Promenade. All Free. Admission to Palace after 5, 1s.

MADAME TUSSAUD AND SONS' EXHIBITION. Adjoining Baker-street Station.—PORTRAIT MODELS of H.M. KING ALFONSO XIII. of Spain, GEORGE AUGUSTUS SALA, LORD NAPIER of MAGDALA (taken in 1868). Over 400 Portrait Models of Celebrities of all ages and nations. Monster Lucky Tub, free prizes to all children. Priceless collection of Napoleonic Relics. New Smoking and Reading Rooms, luxuriously furnished. Organ Recitals at 12, 2, and 6 o'clock. Orchestra from 4 to 6 and 7.30 to 10 P.M. Admission 1s. Children under 12 6d. Open from 10 A.M. till 10 P.M.

MADAME TUSSAUD and SONS.—Unique Relics of the French Revolution of 1789—Models taken from the Heads of Revolutionists by Mdme. Tussaud's own hands. James Berry, the Executioner (taken from life), now added. Mrs. Maybrick now added. CHAMBER OF HORRORS.

NIAGARA IN LONDON. COLOSSAL PANORAMA OF THE GREAT FALLS. Lounge, Music Stereoscopic Views of all America, Cheap Restaurant. Fogs defeated. Electric Light. Building properly warmed. Admission 1s. Tickets at libraries and hotels. No fees. 10 to 10.—YORK STREET, WESTMINSTER, St. James's Park Station. Second Year. One Million Visitors.

ART GALLERIES.

SPORTS AND ARTS EXHIBITION.—GROSVENOR GALLERY, NEW BOND-STREET, W. NOW OPEN. Ten to Seven. Admission 1s.

TUDOR EXHIBITION.—Patron, H.M. the QUEEN; Vice-Patron, H.R.H. the PRINCE OF WALES. NOW OPEN. NEW GALLERY, REGENT-STREET. 10 to 6. Admission 1s. Hon. HAROLD DILLON, Secretary.

HOTEL LIST.

GRAND CANARY HOTEL SANTA CATALINA.—The finest winter climate in the world.—This charming hotel faces the sea, and is surrounded by its own beautifully laid-out grounds. The hotel is replete with every modern improvement, and the sanitary arrangements leave nothing to be desired. Information may be obtained and plans seen at the offices of the CANARY ISLANDS CO., 1, LAURENCE POUNTNEY-HILL, LONDON, E.C.

LONDON.—The HOTEL ALBEMARLE, corner of Albemarle-street and Piccadilly. NOW OPEN.—This palatial Hotel is Now Open for the reception of Visitors. It is fitted up in the most luxurious style, and is one of the most select Hotels in Europe. Cuisine and Wines of the highest class. The Hotel Albemarle is under the personal management of the Proprietor, Mr. A. L. VOGEL.

MR. ARCHIBALD FORBES.

Two days ago Mr. Archibald Forbes, who has been long in bad health, underwent a serious and complicated operation, which was performed with brilliant success by Mr. Reginald Harrison, the Liverpool specialist, who has recently changed his venue to London. Mr. Forbes is making good recovery, and the operation bids fair to restore him to health.

MR. CAINE AND LORD RANDOLPH'S LIQUOR BILL.

Mr. W. S. Caine, speaking at a temperance meeting at Barrow, said he had seen Lord Randolph Churchill's Bill, but was not at liberty to give the details. Both he and Sir Wilfrid Lawson, however, agreed that a better Temperance Bill had never been before the House of Commons. It conferred the direct veto, and there was not a single word about compensation. If he could see that bill turned into law to-morrow he would not ask for a single word to be altered.

FOUR YEARS ON A DESOLATE ISLAND.

Despatches received at Queenstown yesterday from Vancouver Island state that on February 5 three Englishmen were landed there from the American ship *Wanderer*, which rescued them from the uninhabited island of San Alessandro, where they had been for four years. They state that in October, 1885, they took passage on the Japanese vessel *Matsuo Marie* at Hakodate for Amomari, and while crossing the Straits of Issugarn were blown out of their course. For eighty days they were tossed about, and finally the vessel was driven ashore on the island of San Alessandro, and five of the crew were drowned. The three castaways lived chiefly on fruit which grew on the island. They also caught sea birds, and with hooks made out of part of the works of a watch, succeeded in catching fish. They suffered considerable privations, especially from want of clothing, and had all given way to despair when the *Wanderer* rescued them.

THE PITT CLUB.

The Pitt Club, now consisting of only twenty-six members, dined together last night, the anniversary of Pitt's first speech in the House of Commons. The dinner was a private one, as Lord Salisbury, who is now president, was unable to attend. The Club was approaching extinction, but Mr. Fitzwilliam Hume Dick, a former member for Wicklow, revived its dinners last year. It was in 1806 that the great Pitt passed away, and the club used to dine on his birthday and on the anniversary of his first speech in the House.

BUFFALO BILL AND THE POPE.

"Buffalo Bill," who is at present in Rome with his troupe, has requested an audience of the Pope. He and the principal members of the "Wild West Show" will consequently be admitted to the Vatican on the occasion of the celebration of the Pope's coronation, on March 3.

THE "FELLOWSHIP OF THE NEW LIFE."

Mr. Edward Carpenter, the English apostle of Walt Whitmanism, delivered a lecture last night before the members and friends of the "Fellowship of the New Life" at Percy Hall, Tottenham Court-road. There was a crowded audience, mainly composed of young men and maidens drawn from the ranks of those who, like the Kingsleys of half a century ago, are hoping for the regeneration of society on a collectivist basis. The lecture was entitled, "The Future Society," and was followed by an animated discussion of a purely idealist character.

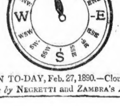
LORD ROSEBERY'S RELIC OF MONTROSE.

The Earl of Rosebery has become the possessor of an interesting relic—the fine chest of hammered iron left by Montrose on the field of Philliphaugh, where he was defeated and made prisoner. The chest, which contained his despatches and was left on the battlefield, was bought for £168 at a public sale.

THERMOMETER. FORECAST ISSUED AT 11 A.M. TO-DAY. BAROMETER.

South England (with London and Channel).—North-easterly and easterly winds, fresh or strong; cloudy, some cold showers.

HIGH WATER London Bridge. Morn. 7h. 16m. After. 7h. 43m.



Thermometer: 70 — 60 — 50 — 40 — 30 — 20. ←Yesterday. Noon to-day.

Barometer: 31 — 30 — 29. Noon to-day. Yesterday→

SUN Rises 6h. 51m. " Sets 5h. 34m. MOON—First Qr. ☽ 26th, 2h. 6m. Aft.

WEATHER AT NOON TO-DAY, Feb. 27, 1890.—Cloudy to bright; fresh, varying.

Readings by NEGRETTI and ZAMBRA'S *Instruments.*

FOURTH EDITION.

FLOODS AND SNOWSTORMS IN AMERICA.

CINCINNATI THREATENED.

Reports from Cincinnati state that the Ohio River has risen seven feet in one day, and the city is threatened with flood. News comes from Denver of snow blocks on the southern division of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. In some cuttings trains are buried in the snow.—*Dalziel.*

DEATH OF LORD AUCKLAND.

A Doncaster correspondent telegraphs that Lord Auckland died at his residence, Edenthorpe, at ten minutes past seven o'clock this morning. The deceased, William George Eden, was born in 1829. He was educated at Rugby, and entered the Diplomatic Service in 1847, serving as Secretary of Legation and Chargé d'Affaires, first at Stuttgart and afterwards at Carlsruhe. He retired in 1851 and nine years later succeeded to the peerage. He was deputy-lieutenant and chairman of the West Riding bench of magistrates; was twice chairman of the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway Company, and president of the Doncaster Agricultural Society. He was a Liberal in politics. Lord Auckland was three times married. The new peer is his eldest son, the Hon. William Morton, who was born in 1859.

THE LITTLE KING OF SPAIN.

Yesterday it was persistently declared in various reports that the life of the young King of Spain was in serious danger. A Reuter's telegram received this morning declares that the statement that his Majesty "had a relapse and is again seriously ill, is entirely unfounded."

LORD TENNYSON.

We are glad to be able to state that Lord Tennyson's bronchitis is now passing through its stages very satisfactorily. Yesterday evening it was announced that his temperature was normal, and his pulse steady at seventy-two, the doctor adding that he had now every reason to hope that his lordship would make uninterrupted progress towards recovery.

THE LABOUR CONFERENCE.

The Labour Conference will (a Central News Telegram says) hold its first sitting on Saturday, March 15. The Emperor and Chancellor discussed on Tuesday and definitely fixed upon the programme to be followed; and this was forwarded the same day to London, Vienna, Paris, Rome, Brussels, the Hague, Berne, Stockholm, and Copenhagen.

THE LOYALTY OF CANADIAN NEGROES.

Mr. C. A. Johnson, on behalf of 30,000 Canadian negroes, has presented addresses and a memorial to Sir John Macdonald assuring the Premier of their unswerving loyalty.—*Dalziel.*

THE RIGHTS OF CANADIAN JEWS.

The Ontario Government has introduced a bill in the Provincial Assembly conferring upon the Jewish community all the rights enjoyed by Christians.—*Dalziel.*

THE GREGORIAN CALENDAR FOR BULGARIA.

The Bucharest correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph Company writes that Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria and M. Stambouloff are agreed to introduce the Gregorian Calendar in all official work in future, instead of the Greek Calendar. This is said to be another step to detach Bulgaria from Russia.

"GONDOLIER" SEATS SOLD BY AUCTION.

The seats for the first night's performance of "The Gondoliers" at Philadelphia were sold yesterday by auction and fetched very high prices.—*Dalziel.*

THE MINERAL WEALTH OF CANADA.

An Exchange Company's telegram from Ottawa says:—An important debate in the Dominion House of Commons to-day with regard to the enormous undeveloped silver and other mineral territory in the British Pacific region. It is understood that the Budget will announce a modification of the duty on certain kinds of mining machinery, with a view to promote the development of this territory.

SERIOUS SHIPPING CASUALTIES.

A Central News telegram from New York says:—The British steamer *Manitoba* has just landed at Halifax the crew, numbering thirty-seven, of the French vessel *Nautique*, when she rescued from their ship when in a sinking condition.

The North German Lloyd liner *Ems*, which has arrived here, reports that in her passage she fell in with the *Hebe* dismasted and apparently in distress. The captain of the *Ems* ordered a boat to be lowered to go to the stranger's assistance; but the little craft had hardly been launched when it was swamped in the heavy sea, and a seaman named Wernckhoff drowned. Ultimately the *Ems* proceeded, believing that the *Hebe* was sound, as she asked for no assistance. There were six men on her deck.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT AN ESSEX FARM.

A fire broke out at Armiger's farm, Haxted, Essex, last night. All the live stock and buildings, including valuable cart horses, 300 head of poultry, sheep, swine, and agricultural implements were totally destroyed.

THE BISHOP OF LINCOLN'S CASE.

We are in a position to state that the Archbishop of Canterbury does not contemplate giving judgment in the case of the Bishop of Lincoln before Easter. Already the promoters are causing it to be understood that should the Primate adopt the views put forward on behalf of Dr. King, they will appeal to the Privy Council.

MAJOR SERPA PINTO "FETED EVERYWHERE."

Major Serpa Pinto, who has (a Delagoa Bay telegram says) been fêted everywhere by the Portuguese colonists, has left, under instructions, for Cape Town.

MR. BIGGAR'S WILL.—AUTHORITATIVE ANNOUNCEMENT.

The *Freeman's Journal* Belfast correspondent supplies on authority the following particulars of Mr. Biggar's will. After several legacies to relations and to some of his old servants, the testator bequeaths the bulk of his property to trustees in trust for his son, Mr. Joseph Biggar, subject to certain contingencies as to the real and personal estate to which he was entitled under the will of the late Samuel Ferguson, of Battlestown Castle, on the death of Mr. Thomas Gilles. After a legacy of £2,000 to the Archbishop of Dublin, he bequeaths to his trustees £2,000, the income to be paid to Margaret Biggar, during her life, the remainder to be held in trust for his son, subject to certain contingencies mentioned. If these contingencies should happen then Butlerstown Castle is to go to the use of the Roman Catholic priest or priests officiating at Butlerstown, subject to these contingencies. He leaves £1,000 to St. Patrick's College, Cavan, £1,000 to the Sisters of Mercy, Loughrea, and £1,000 to the Sisters of Mercy, Belfast. In the event of the beforementioned contingencies the income of the residue, after payment of these sums, is to be paid to the testator's sister, Isabella Grace, for life, and afterwards as she should appoint.

TO KEEP THE CHOLERA OUT OF EUROPE.

Rigorous measures are being taken by the Russian Government to prevent the spread of cholera into the Transcaucasus. All vessels from the infected countries will have to submit to ten days' quarantine and disinfection at Batoum and Theodosia. All pilgrims and travellers from Persia and Turkey are to be sent on through Batoum and Baku, where they will undergo quarantine and have their baggage disinfected. No more passports will be issued to Russian Mahommedans for passing as pilgrims into Persia and Turkey. Persia on her part has reinforced the cordon of frontier guards. In St. Petersburg no cholera has yet shown itself.

One of the finest among the recent specimens of Sir Edgar Boehm's work is a statuette which he executed on the model of a larger work of his, as a present to Sir James Bacon, "the last of the Vice-Chancellors," on his ninety-third birthday.

ST. PANCRAS FOR THE LIBERALS!

LAST NIGHT'S MEETINGS.

The Liberals held three meetings last night in North St. Pancras. By far the most successful of the gatherings held during the campaign was that in the British schools, Kentish Town-road. The room was packed—not in the Irish sense—although additional galleries had been erected. Mr. Samuel Montagu, the member for Whitechapel, made a capital chairman. He appealed to his fellow Jews to still support those who had obtained for them their emancipation. As a member of a race still sorely oppressed by coercive laws in various parts of the world, he could sympathize with the Irish people. One visit to the west coast of our sister isle would be sufficient to convert the most weak-kneed Liberal. After making some good points on the hereditary principle of the House of Lords, he begged the electors to return to their first love—to Mr. Bolton, who had wooed and won the maiden constituency. The Liberal candidate received a welcome calculated to make the most modest man pleased with himself. He appealed once again for support on the broad principles of Home Rule for Ireland and London. He was all in favour of altering the registration laws by reducing the qualifying period, of one man one vote, of shorter Parliaments—just now the Government was running against the life of Mr. Gladstone—of cheaper elections, and of paid M.P.'s. Questions being invited and asked, Mr. Bolton further said museums and national galleries should be open for longer hours on week days, but his answer as to Sunday opening was somewhat unsatisfactory. He wanted the working men to be still more unanimous! He would make barristers as responsible for the result of cases to solicitors and clients as solicitors were now liable to clients. (Hear, hear.) He would follow the lead of Mr. Morley and Mr. Mundella on the education question, but would not commit himself on the vaccination question until the Commission had made their report. Mr. Harry Jones and Mr. T. P. O'Connor followed. From this meeting Mr. Bolton, whose voice showed signs of giving way, fled to a crowded gathering in the Wilkin-street school-rooms, where Mr. Sydney Buxton urged the logical sequence of the Government assertions that the Parnellites should be expelled the House. Mr. James Rowlands, M.P., proved himself a valuable ally, and Mr. Bolton again was most enthusiastically received. Mr. O'Connor also addressed this audience. Simultaneously a meeting was held in the Primitive schoolrooms, Dartmouth Park-hill, at which Mr. Mark Beaufoy, M.P., and Mr. Atherley-Jones, M.P., were the chief speakers. Here Mr. Bolton also met with a most favourable reception.

Mr. Leighton's way of attracting attention last night was certainly effective. In a prominent part of the Kentish Town-road he had had a magic lantern fixed up. On a large sheet were projected alternately comic pictures, views of London, reflections on other candidates, and praises of himself.

TO WELSHMEN.

The Council of the Cymru Fydd Society—having received from Mr. Bolton a declaration in favour of the extension of the Home Rule principle to the case of Wales, and a promise to support Welsh Liberal demands—calls upon Welshmen in the division not only to vote for Mr. Bolton, but also to work energetically between this and Tuesday. "North London Welshmen are invited to meet Mr. W. Griffith, the secretary of the society, at 250, Kentish Town-road, to-night (Thursday) at 7 o'clock, with a view to forming a Welsh canvassing party. Let us as Welshmen assert our individuality, and vindicate the claims of our nation by working directly for Wales in this election."

THIS MORNING'S REPORT.

A lot of capital is being made by the Tories of some interruptions that took place last evening while Mr. Bolton was addressing some of the Midland Railway employés. Here are the true facts of the case. A few young men—it is not even probable that they were electors—heckled the Liberal candidate, reading questions which apparently had been written down for them. They referred to the St. Pancras Reform Club in the Prince of Wales's-road as a "drinking saloon," and have thereby caused a good deal of indignation in the neighbourhood. There was a disturbance, it is true, in the club, but it was caused by Tories—and the magistrate adjudicating the case complimented the management of the club, which boasts over 600 members, on its respectability. When the vote of confidence in Mr. Bolton was put, only eleven out of nearly 500 dissented! As I mentioned previously, Mr. Bolton's voice showed great signs of wear and tear last night. He is better this morning, but will eschew open-air meetings for the day. Instead, he will be "at home" at the central committee-rooms to tradespeople who want quietly to catechize him. Mr. Haysman, the candidate for Mile-end, and president of the Tenant Tradesmen's Association, will aid Mr. Bolton. There is a strong cast for the chief Liberal meeting to-night in the Board School, Carlton-road. It is announced that the Right Hon. Osborne Morgan, Mr. Herbert Gladstone, Mr. W. Woodall, M.P., Mr. Augustus Birrell, M.P., and Mr. E. H. Pickersgill, M.P., will all be present, and will speak. Simultaneously, a meeting will be held in Leighton Hall, Leighton-road, at which Dr. R. Farquharson, M.P., and Dr. J. T. Fox, M.P., will support the Liberal candidate, as well as Mr. Osborne Morgan and Mr. Woodall once again. So far, Messrs. Winsor and Newton constitute the only firm which has refused to let Mr. Bolton address their employés on their premises. Messrs. Brinsmead hitherto have neither given nor refused permission. It is an open secret that the very numerous hands of the great pianoforte house will practically go solid for Mr. Bolton. More lady canvassers and more men able to devote the day-time to the good cause are wanted still; and wealthy Liberals are asked to send carriages for Tuesday next to take the electors to the poll. Of course, the Tories are well equipped in this respect.

The nomination takes place to-morrow morning at the Vestry Hall between ten and twelve o'clock. Mr. Hind will propose, and Mr. Lamble will second Mr. Bolton's nomination. Mr. Clarence R. Halse, the returning officer, has given notice that the polling-stations will be as follows:—St. Anne's Brookfield National School, for Highgate; Burghley-road Board school, Highgate-road, for St. John's Park; Carlton-road Board schools, for Gospel Oak; Mansfield-place Board school, Kentish-town-road, for Grafton; and St. Dominick's Priory school, Southampton-road, for Maitland Park.

THE LIBERAL COMMITTEE ROOMS.

Central: 250, Kentish-town-road, Mr. G. F. Smith.
Highgate: 3, Chester-road, Mr. W. G. Rathey.
St. John's Park: 150A, Fortess-road, Mr. C. J. F. Carnell.
Gospel Oak: 22, Lismore-circus, Mr. A. Cathie.
Grafton: 12, Carlton-street, Mr. G. R. Southerton.
Maitland Park: 129, Malden-road, Mr. F. Allen.

MR. ASHMEAD-BARTLETT AND THE REPORT.

Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett, M.P., like the Attorney-General, has been misreported. He writes to us this morning as follows.—

You will see from the accompanying letter in the *Morning Post* that I did not use, at Bethnal Green or elsewhere, the words you attributed to me on Tuesday—namely, that "the Judge's Report would show that the great body of the Irish party were in league with murderers and assassins." I am quite content to follow the conclusions and the wording of the Judge's Report. The more widely the report of the Special Commission is known, and the more closely it is studied by the electors of this country, the more thorough and unchangeable will be their condemnation of your Parnellite allies.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant, E. ASHMEAD BARTLETT.

We quoted Mr. Bartlett's words from the *Morning Post*, just as we quoted Sir Richard Webster's the other day from the *Times*. Obviously, there is a "conspiracy" among the Unionist papers to mis-report the Unionist speakers.

LADY STANLEY AND THE INDIAN'S CHILD.

Lady Stanley has met with an adventure in Canada of which she sends home (says the London correspondent of the *Liverpool Post*) an interesting account. She accompanied the Governor-General of Canada in his tour westward. They visited the Indian reservation of the Blackfoots. There Lady Stanley observed a little white child, some five or six years of age playing about with the Indian children. The child could not speak a word of English, and seemed quite at home with her Indian sisters. On inquiry, Lady Stanley found that the girl had been captured when a baby, during an Indian raid on the United States. Lady Stanley endeavoured to induce the Indians to part with their prize, but they had grown to love the little thing, and no money would buy her. On returning to Ottawa communications were opened with the Government at Washington, and an American agent was despatched to the spot. From his inquiries it seemed probable that the child was the daughter of a United States officer killed in some Indian foray, but of her identity there was no trace. The President has given instructions that the child is to be rescued at any cost, and a United States officer has sent to the reservation with these instructions. From what Lady Stanley learned of the views of the Indians, it seems doubtful whether anything but main force will induce them to give up the child.

SENSIBLE ORDER BY A CHIEF OF POLICE.

Lieutenant-General Gresser, the indefatigable Chief of Police of St. Petersburg has issued a very excellent general order to the proprietors of dancing saloons, music-halls, and restaurants, in which he comments upon the general dirty condition of these places of amusement, and points out that Lent presents an excellent opportunity for the repairing, cleaning, and re-decoration of these resorts, and threatens that if this opportunity is not availed of, those public caterers who have neglected the General's warning will not have their licences renewed at Easter, which is the most festive season of the year.

A SPORTSMAN AND AN ACTRESS IN THE DIVORCE COURT.

DARBISHIRE v. DARBISHIRE AND BAIRD.

The temple of *causes célèbres*—Sir James Hannen's Divorce Court—was again crowded this morning. Mr. Darbishire petitioned the court for a divorce from his wife, best known by her *nom de théâtre* of Agnes Hewitt, by reason of her alleged adultery with Mr. George Baird, otherwise Abington, the widely-known racing man. Damages were claimed, and answers were filed denying the charge. Mr. Willis, Q.C. (with whom was Mr. Middleton) appeared for the petitioner; Mr. Barnard appeared for the respondent; while Mr. Baird was represented by Sir Charles Russell, Q.C., Mr. Inderwick, Q.C., and Mr. Germaine. The case was heard by Sir James Hannen and a common jury.

Mr. Willis, Q.C., opened the case at some length. The parties (he said) were married in November, 1887, and soon afterwards Miss Hewitt took the Olympic Theatre—a speculation which did not prove a success. They subsequently went on tour with a company, and while at Liverpool Mr. Darbishire and his wife attended the Grand National races, where the petitioner saw his wife speak to Mr. Baird. This was in the middle of March, 1889. The engagement at an end, the company proceeded to Leicester, whence both Mr. and Mrs. Darbishire proceeded to London for the bankruptcy proceedings then going on. Mrs. Darbishire was not well enough to return to Leicester and remained in London for some days. Subsequently the husband found some letters in his wife's drawer, which pointed to a certain amount of intimacy between her and Mr. Baird. He taxed her with it; and she admitted to him that she had stayed with Mr. Baird in his house, at 3, John-street, Berkeley-square, gone with him to Newmarket, and committed adultery with him. This would not be difficult to prove. But this was not all. The other side had brought serious charges against Mr. Darbishire. They had accused him of adultery.

Sir Charles Russell said they did not propose to offer any evidence in support of that charge.

Mr. Willis was glad to hear this. The charge was entirely without foundation. Another charge had been brought by the other side—namely, that the husband and wife were prosecuting this suit in collusion. This accusation also was entirely without foundation. As to the question of damages, Mr. Willis pointed out to the jury that they would have to assess the value of the wife's society to the petitioner, and also the knowledge which Mr. Baird must have had as to whether Miss Hewitt was married or not.

Mr. Francis Gaskell Darbishire was then called, and examined by Mr. Middleton. He said he was at one time a shipping merchant, but subsequently became an actor. He married Miss Hewitt in 1887. Previous to that she had been living with Mr. Sothern in Gower-street, but was not married to him. The petitioner lived with his wife until 1889; he was much attached to her, and they lived very comfortably together. There were no children of the marriage. Both he and Miss Hewitt became bankrupt in connection with the Olympic venture. They then went on tour—at a joint salary of £12 per week—and were in Liverpool in March 1889. While there, his wife upon one occasion went out to supper—as she said, with a party of ladies. She said nothing about Mr. Baird. Soon afterwards she pleaded bad health as an excuse for coming to London, and left Liverpool, joining her husband again at Leicester some days afterwards. From that place they both came to London to attend a meeting of their creditors on the 3rd of April, 1889. After the meeting, Mrs. Darbishire remained in town for a few days, but saw her husband again at Leicester on the 5th. She returned to London, where her husband soon afterwards joined her. On April 22 he found some letters in his wife's dressing-case, in which he was searching for some "make-up." He accused his wife of undue intimacy with Mr. Baird, which she admitted to have taken place at Liverpool, at Bedford Lodge, Newmarket, and at 3, John-street, Berkeley-square. The petitioner at once left the house and proceeded to rejoin the company at Derby.

How long from that time were you absent from London?—About two months.

Did you know of any application being made by your wife to Mr. Baird?—No.

You have never been back to your wife?—Never.

And you have had no correspondence with her?—None.

The charges of adultery and collusion made against you are false?—Yes.

Sir Charles Russell then rose to cross-examine.

Were you aware that your wife was being "financed" by a gentleman connected with the Olympic Theatre?—I heard of it.

And this connection with the theatre ceased in November, 1887?—I am not aware of the date.

The following letter was then produced by Sir Charles Russell and read. It was from Mr. Preston, a solicitor, and was addressed to Mr. Baird:—

26th April, 1889.

Sir,—Miss Agnes Hewitt has consulted me with reference to your extraordinary behaviour to her. The matter is serious, and therefore it is most desirable that you should see me without delay. If you can give me an appointment I can call on you if you wish it; but if you should send any one here please tell them not to state their business to any one but myself, as the matter is strictly private.—Yours obediently,

C. E. R. PRESTON.

P.S. A wire will find me here in the morning.

This letter was written four days after witness discovered the letters in his wife's dressing-case. This discovery, witness averred, was purely accidental. Mr. Preston's letter, he thought, referred to a demand for money. He had had no communication with his wife since April 22. In further cross-examination witness said he knew 318, Strand. Both his wife and he had had letters addressed there. But he had never received money from his wife there, nor had he ever taken up her letters. This concluded Sir Charles Russell's cross-examination, and, after a few questions from Mr. Willis, the petitioner left the box.

LIBERAL DEMONSTRATION AT BATH.

SPEECH BY SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT.

This morning Sir William Harcourt was entertained at a public breakfast in Bath Guildhall by the Bath United Liberal Association. There were about one hundred and fifty leading Liberals of the district present. Mr. Jerome Murch, who presided, formally presented an address to the right hon. gentleman which spoke of Sir William Harcourt's undaunted services to the Liberal party, to the hopeful prospects of Ireland, and of anticipations regarding legislative progress in England and Wales.

Sir W. Harcourt, in reply, said the majority by which the Ministry were misgoverning Ireland was a significant majority. The Cartel majority in Germany was very much like that under which we were living. The Cartel combination in Germany had gone to pieces, and the "national and patriotic" majority now governing this country was going to pieces also. Their victories at the poll, and not their defeats, showed their decadence. By the combination now existing every Liberal measure was defeated, including Allotments, Sunday Closing, and Free Education. Some Tories would have supported the last-named measure but for the weight which Mr. Chamberlain threw into the scales against Free Education, and he (Sir William) feared that particular reform must now for a considerable time be abandoned. They were told that the obstacle to free education was the voluntary schools. If it ever came to that issue, so much the worse for the voluntary schools. He was not averse to them, but if set up as a bar to free education it was impossible they could be maintained.

At the close of Sir William Harcourt's speech resolutions were adopted in favour of Irish Home Rule, and of dealing with questions affecting the large masses of people in England, Scotland, and Wales.

LORD RANDOLPH'S NEW CLUB.

Lord Randolph Churchill has (a country gossip says) practically transferred his patronage and presence from the Carlton to the Junior Carlton Club. He makes his engagements out at that institution, gives his dinner parties there, and only to-day met by appointment a number of political congenials under its roof.

THE ARMY AND NAVY ESTIMATES.

The Army and Navy Estimates were submitted to the Public Accounts Committee in an improved, or, at least, a changed form yesterday. In the new form the estimates for both branches of the service are grouped together; there would consequently be no longer a separate body of estimates for each service.

A MAN AND THREE WOMEN LIVING IN ONE ROOM.

Last evening Dr. George Danford Thomas held an inquest, at the Holborn Town Hall, Gray's-inn-road, relative to the death of Elizabeth Tarrill, aged fifty-two years, lately residing at 10, Fox-court, Gray's-inn-road. Mr. Samuel Shipling, the coroner's officer, informed the court that he visited the house, 10, Fox-court, and found that an old man named Martin, who was unmarried, lived in a small room with the deceased and two other women. The place was in a most horrible, dirty, and neglected condition. They had only rags and old paper, picked up he should think in the street, to sleep on. The whole of them were themselves very dirty, their flesh being regularly black, and they had not washed themselves, he should think, for months. The jury found that the death of the woman was due to exhaustion while suffering from congestion of the lungs and heart disease.

SIR CHAS. RUSSELL AND THE COMMISSION JUDGES.

AN INTERESTING STORY.

Sir Charles Russell, Q.C., M.P., speaking at Cambridge last night, analysed at considerable length the findings of the Parnell Commission, and declared that they exonerated Mr. Parnell and his party from participation in crime. In the course of his observations he said:—Of the judges I wish to say only one word. I believe each one of them to have been very desirous of discharging the duties imposed upon him honestly and impartially, but I do not admit they were men capable of judging or dealing with some questions referred to them. And I do not admit that they were men free from what I will call prepossession. I may mention what I don't know has been ever mentioned publicly before. When the Commission was about to be appointed I said to our great leader, Mr. Gladstone, before the judges were named, that I thought it exceedingly undesirable and lowering to the character of English judges to have in the House of Commons a discussion as to the fitness of each of these men to fill the office of Commissioner. To avoid that I suggested to Mr. Gladstone that he should communicate with Mr. Smith and ask him to furnish him with a list of the judges willing to serve, and that from that list the names of three judges should be selected. Mr. Gladstone thought this course should be followed too, but did not think it was for him to make the suggestion. He thought that it was rather for me to communicate with the other side. I did. I spoke to the Attorney-General about it. I said to him, as I say to you, "Why are we in the House of Commons to be called upon, to the prejudice of the judicial office, and to the annoyance of any particular person named, to discuss the personal fitness or unfitness of particular men?" and then I repeated to him the suggestion I made to Mr. Gladstone. I was obliged to leave the House of Commons that evening. I asked him to communicate with Mr. John Morley. Sir Richard Webster said he would see Mr. Smith. He never did communicate with Mr. John Morley at all. The next thing was the introduction of the names of the three judges, whereas there might have been a discussion avoided as to the unfitness at least of one of them had my advice been followed.

FURTHER DETAILS OF THE ARIZONA DISASTER.

REMARKABLE RESULTS OF THE FLOOD.

The details of the bursting of the Walnut Grove dam across the Hassayampa River, in Arizona, represent a more shocking disaster than was at first supposed. The number of the dead is now estimated at one hundred and fifty, although fewer than thirty bodies have been recovered, many having been torn to pieces, or deeply buried, or flung into inaccessible spots in the perpendicular sides of the cañon. Some of the victims were carried thirty miles away from where they were killed.

The dam was one of the four largest on the continent. It impounded four thousand millions of gallons, the drainage of five hundred square miles, in a reservoir with an area of seven hundred and fifty acres. From the dam to the town of Wickenburg, a distance of thirty-five miles was traversed by the flood within an hour, thus outstripping a fleet horseman who was drowned within sight of the camp before he could deliver his warning message.

Twenty-one persons were killed seventy-five miles away, at the junction of the Gila and Hassayampa rivers. Buildings were destroyed one hundred miles away; and one solid iron implement, which had been carried five miles, is now visible, lodged eighty feet above the present level of the brook. Huge glacial boulders were tossed about like children's balls, and substantial dwellings were not only overturned, but torn to pieces instantly, beam from beam.

THE O'SHEA DIVORCE SUIT.—CONTEMPT.

THE "FREEMAN'S JOURNAL" APPEAL DISMISSED.

Lord Justices Cotton, Lindley, and Lopes to-day dismissed the appeal of Mr. Tuohy, London correspondent of the *Freeman's Journal*, against the decision of Mr. Justice Butt, fining him £100 for commenting in the *Freeman's Journal* on the O'Shea divorce proceedings. Their lordships decided that, being a criminal case, there could be no appeal.

LOVERS SHOT DEAD BY A RIVAL.

An extraordinary tragedy is reported from the town of Montgomery, Minnesota. A man named Lindia, a native of Bohemia, had been for some time courting a fair young countrywoman named Elizabeth Washa. Recently the girl had been in the company of a young American named Weaver, and Lindia became madly jealous. On Tuesday evening he met the couple walking together, and at once drew a revolver and shot the girl and her escort dead before Weaver could draw in self-defence. Having obtained his revenge, Lindia immediately blew out his brains with the same weapon.

FRANCE TO TAKE PART IN THE LABOUR CONFERENCE.

The Paris correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle* says he is informed that the Government has decided to send delegates to the Berlin Labour Conference. These would be three out of the four following:—M. T. de Bort, M. Leroy Beaulieu, Frédéric Passy, and M. Courcelles Seneuil. This list shows that political specialists known for their profound study of great economic questions have been selected, rather than diplomatists.

THE WHARF DISPUTES.

A large meeting of all the men at Hay's Wharf was addressed at Bull's-court this morning by Messrs. Ben Tillett and Tom Mann. Mr. Tillett mentioned that the Dock, Wharf, and Riverside Union now numbered 80,000 members, who were distributed all over the kingdom. At the wharf to-day the men expressed their intention not to give way. Negotiations are in progress towards a settlement at Sharpe's Wharf. At Brooks's Wharf there is no change.

ALTERATIONS IN THE INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT.

There is a likelihood of a considerable alteration in the staff of the Income-tax Department. It is thought that Mr. Daniel O'Connell (the senior commissioner) will retire at an early date, and that this will result in a reorganization on a small scale of the office. The most probable candidate for the post is (says the London correspondent of the *Birmingham Post*) a prominent member of the secretary's office, an official who has for some years enjoyed the confidence of his superiors. The promotions consequent on this elevation are being anticipated with a little anxiety, as those which followed an elevation to the special commissionership caused considerable heartburnings among the income-tax inspectors.

PRINCESS BEATRICE AT THE SAVOY SCHOOLS.

Princess Beatrice, accompanied by Prince Henry of Battenberg, distributed the prizes to the pupils of the Savoy Schools. Her Royal Highness wore a long black mantle, which completely covered her dress. The long hanging sleeves were edged with dark grey fur, and a boa and muff were of a similar material. Her small black bonnet was trimmed with pink. After a short statement made by the Rev. H. White, chaplain of the Savoy and chaplain to the House of Commons, the prizes were handed to Prince Henry of Battenberg, who passed on each to the Princess. With a graceful gesture, her Royal Highness handed each to its owner. The ceremony was an interesting one, and was witnessed by a large audience.

MR. FREDERIC HARRISON'S ADVICE TO PADDINGTON.

Mr. Frederic Harrison, in a letter addressed to Mr. Frank Moss, the founder of the Paddington Free Library, congratulates him on the success attained by the movement he inaugurated. The fact that the library books show 55,000 certified readers is a sufficient justification of Mr. Harrison's exultant eulogy. The more so as Paddington was exceedingly slow to venture upon the experiment; so slow indeed that Mr. Harrison admits he was more hopeless of Paddington than of any other quarter. Now that Paddington has removed the reproach under which it for many years was content to remain, Mr. Harrison hopes it will develop the institution now happily planted in the parish, and raise a noble library, worthy of the intelligence and the wealth of the district.

FIELD GUNS FOR THE VOLUNTEERS.

Lord Wolseley has announced that the War Office will shortly be in a position to issue fifty more muzzle-loading field-guns, for the purpose of forming moveable batteries from the Volunteer Artillery Brigades; and the colonels of these corps are being invited to accept the weapons, with the additional money allowance already sanctioned. When these guns have been issued, the number of mobile guns in the possession of the Volunteer Field Batteries will be over three hundred, irrespective of those used in permanent works by the garrison brigades.

A conference on the subject of colliers' wages is to take place between the Colliery Owners' Federation and representatives of the Miners' National Federation, at the Westminster Palace Hotel next Tuesday afternoon.

THE MONEY MARKET.

One o'clock.

MARKETS QUIET.—QUOTATIONS AS A RULE STEADY.—NO FEATURE.

The Bank of England directors at their meeting this morning decided to make no further alteration in the official minimum, which therefore remains at 5 per cent. In the open market there is still a good demand for money at about 5 per cent., and the Bank of England is now lending at 5½ per cent. for three, five, or seven days, at the option of the borrower. The discount rate for three months' bank paper remains at 4 to 4⅛ per cent., with a quiet business passing.

The final arrangements in connection with the settlement are occupying the attention of operators in Stock Exchange securities, and the new business entered into is on a very moderate scale. Consols and other high class investment stocks are quiet, while little has been done in the Home Railway market. Several of the heavy English railways are now quoted in the half-yearly dividend, and after making allowance for this the variations in price are unimportant. European descriptions in the Foreign department are almost entirely neglected, but there has been some buying of Argentine and Buenos Ayres currency issues, in spite of latest advices from Buenos Ayres reporting another rise in the gold premium to 134¼ per cent. American Railways are generally lower, and there is an entire absence of disposition to speculate for a rise in this department although the intrinsic conditions of the market are generally believed to be good. The holders of Reading Third Preferences who held out for 7½ per cent. interest have, it is reported, presented coupons for payment at the amount offered by the company. As 1,000,000 dols. only are still representing the suit and one tenth is required, opposition to the present management is, it is claimed, buried in this direction. Trunks and Mexican Railway issues are harder.

The negotiations which are proceeding between the Egyptian Government and Sir Edgar Vincent are not on the subject of the conversion of the Domains and Daira loans, but their object (the Cairo correspondent of the *Times* says) is to induce the Egyptian Government to aid the Imperial Turkish Exchequer by facilitating the conversion of the tribute loans. Exclusive of the 1855 loan, guaranteed by England and France, the total amount of tribute loans outstanding is approximately 11½ millions, entailing an annual charge of £610,000. It is proposed to repay the outstanding loans at par by a new 4 per cent. issue, and to create a further amount of stock which would remain at the disposal of the Turkish and Egyptian Governments without increasing the annual charge. The difficulty of the arrangement would be to settle in what proportions the two Governments should participate in the benefits derived.

The share certificates of the Law Debenture Corporation (Limited) are now ready to be exchanged for letters of allotment and bankers' receipts.

With reference to the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, it is announced that an influential committee (representing for themselves and their clients several millions of dollars in the road) has been formed with the object of protecting English interests.

The Imperial Bank of Persia announce that, in addition to the chief office at Teheran, they have opened the bank at Tabreez, Bushire, and Ispahan, and are prepared to do general banking business between Persia and other countries.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.—The market opened quiet with a moderate demand. Probable sales 7,000 bales. Futures are partially half a point lower.

TRAFFICS.—Grand Trunk (main line) £2,529 *increase*, (Chicago and Grand Trunk) £1,459 *increase*, (Detroit section) £666 *increase*.

The following are the latest changes compared with yesterday's closing:—

HOME RAILWAYS.—*Improved:* Brighton Deferred ¼, Caledonian, North British Deferred and South Eastern Deferred ⅛ each. *Receded:* Hull and Barnsley, and Sheffield Deferred ¼, and Great Eastern ⅛.

FOREIGN STOCKS.—*Advanced:* Argentine of 1888, ditto Three and a Half per Cents., and Cedulas A ¼ each, Buenos Ayres Cedulas I and J ¼, Turkish 1871 ¼, and Hungarian Gold ⅛. *Declined:* French Four and a Half per Cents., Greek of 1881, and Uruguay Five and Six per Cents. ¼ each, and Egyptian Unified 1-16.

AMERICAN RAILWAYS.—*Risen:* Louisville and Nashville ⅜, Erie Second Mortgage and Ohio and Mississippi Ordinary ¼. *Fallen:* Union Pacific shares ⅝, Erie shares ⅜, Ontario shares, Philadelphia and Reading shares, and Wabash Preference ¼ each, Central Pacific, Milwaukee, Missouri, Kansas, and Texas, and Atlantic First Mortgage ⅛ each.

CANADIAN AND FOREIGN RAILWAYS.—*Higher:* Mexican Ordinary First and Second Preference ¼ each, Grand Trunk First and Second Preference and Guaranteed ⅛ each.

MINES AND MISCELLANEOUS.—*Improved:* De Beers, New Jagersfontein, and City and Suburban ¼ each; Gold Fields of South Africa 3-16, Oceana Land ⅛, Rio Tinto and Tharsis 1-16. *Receded:* Eastman's Ordinary ⅛.

The following are this day's 1 o'clock prices of the principal Stocks and Shares:—

BRITISH FUNDS, ETC.		
Consols (2¾) Money	97⅜	½
Do. Account	97⅜	½
Do. 1905	99½	100
New 2½ per Cents.	95¼	¾
Local Loans Stock	102¾	3¼
India 3½ per Cents.	107¼	¾
Do. 4½ p. c. Ru.	71⅛	⅝
Egyptian Guar.	101½	2
Bk. of England St.	333	6
Met. Bd. Wks. 3½ p.c.	112¼	¾
Do. 3 p. ct. Scrip	102	½
Birmgham 3½ p. c.	110	11
Leeds 4 per cent.	115	17
Liverpool 3½ p. c.	112½	13
Manchester 4 p. c.	126	8
COLONIAL SECURITIES.		
Canada 4 p. c. Reg.	107	9
Canada 3 p. c. Reg.	95	6
Cape 4 p c Cons Ins	110½	11½
Ceylon 4 p. c. Ins.	110½	11½
Mauritius 4 p c Ins.	106	7
Natal 4 p. c. C1937	110½	11½
N.S Wales Ins 1933	113	15
" 3½ 1924	104	5
NewZlnd 4 p.c. Cons.	106½	7½
Queenslnd 4 p.c. Ins.	110	11
S. Austln. 4 p.c. Reg.	109	10
Victoria 4 p.c. of 1885	111½	12½
W. Austrlia 4 p.c. Ins.	109	11
FOREIGN STOCKS.		
Argentn 4½ p.c. 1888	81	½
Do. 3½ p.c. Extnl.	62	½
Do. Cedulas A	45	½
Do. " B	44½	5½
Austrian Gold	93	5
" Silver	74	6
Brazilian 4½ 1888	84¾	5¼
Do. 1889 (fully pd)	75¼	¾
Do. " (partly pd)	11½	10½dis
B. Ayres 6 p.c. 1883	100	1
" Cedulas "I"	34¼	¾
" " "J"	32¼	¾
Bulgarian	88½	9½
Chilian 4½ pc. 1889	101	2
Costa Rica A	90	2
" " B	87	9
Ecuador, New	24¼	¾
Egypt. State Dom.	103	½
Do. Unified	94 13/16	15/15
Egypt. Preference	103⅞	4⅛
Do. Daira Sanich	84	¼
French 3 p.c. Rentes	87¼	¾
Do. 4½ p.c. Rentes	104	½
Greek 5 p. c. 1881-4.	89¾	90¼
Do. 4 p. c. Mon.	74¾	5¼
Hung. Gold Rentes	87⅜	⅝
Italian	92¼	½
Mexican 6 p.c. 1888.	95	½
Peruvian 5 p. c. 1872	17¼	½
Do. 6 p. c.	20½	¾
Portuguese	63	¼
Russian 4 p. c. 1889	93¼	¾
Spanish 4 p. c.	72 9/16	11/16
Turkish, 1854	102	4
Conv. A	40½	1
Do. B	25	¼
Do. D	17⅞	18⅛
4½ p. c. 1871	97¼	¾
5 p. c. Defence	102½	3
5 p. c. Priority	97	9
Uruguay Unified	72¾	3¼
Do. 6 p. c. 1888	83¼	¾
Virginia Funded	44½	5½
U.S. 4½ p. c.	105	7 xd
BRITISH RAILWAYS.		
Brighton Ordinary	153	5
Do. A	152¼	½
Chatham Ordinary	23¼	½
Do. Preference	109	½
Caledonian	125¾	6¼
Great Eastern	83	¼
Great Northern	120	2 xd
Do. A	103	4 xd

Great Western	162½	¾xd
Hull and Barnsley.	37½	8
Lanc. and York.	121½	2½
North Western	176	¼xd
South Western	154½	5½
Manch. and Sheff.	88	90
Do. A	47	½
Metro. Consolidated	76¾	7¼
Do. District	29	½
Midland	142¼	½xd
North Brit. Pref.	77¾	8
Do. Def.	61⅝	⅞
North Eastern	164¼	½
North Stafford	111	13
South Eastern	129	31
Do. Deferred	103⅜	⅝
Taff Vale	77	80
FOREIGN RAILWAYS.		
Canada Pacific	76⅝	⅞
Cen. Pacific Shares	33½	¾
Chic. Mil. and St. Pl.	69½	¾
Denver & R. Grande	16	¼
Do. Preference	48¼	¾
Illinois Shares	117	18
Lake Shore	107½	8
Louis & Nash	87¾	8
Miss. Kan. & Texas	7½	8
N.Y. Central Shares	108¾	9¼
New York Ontario	17⅞	18⅛
N. Y. Erie Shares	26⅛	⅜
Do. Second Mort.	103¼	¾
Norfolk & West. Pref	62¼	½
N.Y., P. & O. 1st M.	33½	4
North Pacific Pref.	75½	6
Ohio & Mississippi	21¾	2¼
Pennsylvania Sh.	55¾	6¼
Phil & Read Sh.	20¼	½
Union Pacific Sh	66¾	7
Wabash Preferred	31	½
Do. Gen. Mort.	50	1
Grand Trunk Ord.	11	⅛
Do. First Pref.	73⅝	⅞
Do. Second Pref.	50⅝	⅞
Do. Third Pref.	28⅛	⅜
Do. Guaranted	77½	¾
Mexican Ordinary	36⅞	7⅛
Do. First Pref.	116¾	17¼
Ob. do. 2nd Pref.	72¾	3¼
Mexican Central	72¼	¾
Mexican National	58½	9½
Lombardo-Venetian	12	⅛
Nitrate Railway	17¾	18¼
Taltal	4½	5
B. Ayres & Rosario	166	70
Do. Great Southern	126	9
Central Argentine	168	72
S. Paulo (Braz.)	44	6
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank	14½	15½
City Bank	22	3
Colonial	50	2
Consolidated Bank	8¼	¾
Imperial	19½	20½
Imperial Ottoman	11¼	⅜
London and County	88	90
Lloyds	26½	7½
Lon. and Westmtr.	69	71
London Joint Stock	38½	9½
Nat. Prov. of Eng.	56½	7½
Provincial of Ireland	24	5
Stnrd. Bk. of S. A.	52	4
Union of London	40½	1½
National Discount	11½	12
TRUSTS.		
Fn. & Cl. Gov. Df.	135	40
Gov. Stk. Invst. Df.	112	16
Lon. and N.Y. Inv.	7	½
Stock Conversion	1¼	½
South African Gold	2½	¾
Trus., Ex., & Sec.	6¼	¾
MINING & LAND.		
Indian Con. Gold	2/0	3/0
Mysore Gold	6½	¾

Ooregum Gold	2 3/16	5/16
Cape Copper	3⅜	⅝
Namaqua	1⅞	2½
Mason & Barry	6¼	½
Rio Tinto	15⅞	16
Tharsis	4½	¾
Montana	1 3/16	5/16
De Beers	17⅝	⅞
Griqualand West	5¾	6
New Jagersfontein.	13	½
City and Suburban.	7½	8
Jumper's Gold	8¼	¾
Jubilee	4¾	5¼
Robinson	3¾	4
Salisbury	6¾	7¼
Sutherland Reef	3½	4
S. Afcn. Exploratn.	20¼	¾
Do. New	2¼	⅜pm
G. F. of Sth. Africa	4½	¾
Exploring Co.	15	17
Oceana Land	11¼	¾
Southern Land	par	¼ pr
Transvaal Land	⅝	⅞pm
TELEGRAPH & TELEPHONE		
Anglo-American	49	50
Do. Preferred	82½	3½
BrazilianSubmarine	12¼	¾
Direct UnitedStates	9⅞	10⅛
Eastern	13⅞	14⅛
Do. Extension	13¾	14
Globe Teleg. Trust	8⅝	⅞
National Telephone	4⅞	5⅛
OMNIBUS AND TRAM		
Lon. Gen. Om.	190	200
London Road Car.	5¼	¾
London Street	11¾	12¼
London Tramways.	15	½
North Metropolitan	18¼	¾
WATERWORKS.		
Chelsea Waterwks.	260	5
East London	211	15
Grand Junction	122	7
Kent	270	5
Lambeth	252	6
New River, New	360	5
Sthwrk & V'xhall	164	9
Tarapaca	10⅞	11⅛
West Middlesex	260	5
GAS AND ELECTRIC LIGHT		
Gaslight & Coke A	243	6
Imp. Continental	210	15
South Metropolitan	283	8
Do. B	225	30
Do. C	235	45
London Electric	2⅞	3⅛
Metrpltan Electric	5⅝	⅞
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Allsopp's	6⅞	7⅛
Bell's Asbestos	11½	12
Guinness and Co.	342½	5 xd
Hotchkiss	7	¼
Maxim-Nordenfelt.	2½	¾
Bryant and May	13¼	½
Eastman's Ord	15¾	16
Elmore's Copper, &c	6	¼
Spratt's Patent	7½	¾
Liverpool Nitrate	13	15
Colorado Nitrate	4	¼
Primitiva Nitrate	14½	15
Rosario	3	4
San Pablo	4¼	¾
San Jorge	6	½
San Donato	3¼	¾
Tamarugal	2	½
Salt Union Shares	11¼	½
P. and O. Steam Def.	199	203
Royal Mail Steam	71	4
Hudson's Bay	20¼	½
Suez Canal	90¾	1¼
E. & W. India Docks	16	18
Lon. & St. K. Dock	33	8

"Pall Mall Gazette Office."

THURSDAY MORNING.

There is hope for the *Times* shareholders even yet. It is an open secret that their complaints at the cutting of the dividend owing to the expenses of the Commission have been both loud and deep. For a time, however, their spirits were buoyed up by the hope that when the *Times* triumphantly proved its case a grateful Government would come to their rescue. But Pigott, in whom they trusted, killed both himself and their chances of a public subsidy.

***

But hope springs eternal in the investor's breast. Mr. Soames could, of course, give no promise; but vague expectations were held out that as soon as the Commission triumphantly vindicated the remainder of the charges and allegations, a grateful party would raise a national subscription. But the judges, to whom the *Times* transferred the trust it had previously placed in Pigott, brought in a verdict which (in Lord Selborne's words) "tended to exonerate" the Parnellites, and the National Subscription has hung fire. The shareholders need not, however, quite abandon all hope even yet; for a Tory evening journal has half-promised that it will open a subscription list in order that "individual Unionists" may "voluntarily contribute" to reimburse the paymasters of Pigott. £200 has been promised already. What a pity that the impecunious Mr. Pigott himself is not alive to relieve these *amateurs* of forgery of their superfluous cash!

***

In the catalogue of some Birmingham autograph dealers, after an authentic letter of Mr. Parnell, come two authentic letters of the forger Pigott. The compiler of the catalogue, it will be observed, notes that the contents of Mr. Parnell's letter prove it genuine. This observation applies equally well to poor Pigott's two begging letters. Here are the entries transcribed from the catalogue:—

PARNELL (Charles Stuart, M.P.). Irish Patriot of Commission Fame, &c. Authentic signed letter written on House of Commons' paper by his secretary and signed by Mr. Parnell, "Chas. S. Parnell." 1½ pages 8vo. London, Mar. 15, 1881. The contents prove this letter authentic. *Very scarce.* £1 10s.

PIGOTT (Richard). The famous Forger of "The Times" Parnell Letters. Autograph Letter, Signed. 1 page 8vo. 17, Vesey-place, Kingston, July 12, 1889. To a firm of publishers requesting them to take his bill at four months, also adds: "Do you think would a shilling or sixpenny pamphlet about Land Leaguers sell? My idea is to write a series of letters to leading Leaguers, after the manner of those appearing in the *World* series of Letters to Eminent Persons." *Interesting and Rare.* £1 10s.

PIGOTT (Richard), of Parnell Fame. Autograph letter, signed. 2 pages, 8vo. 17, Vesey-place, Kingston, January 6, 1883. To his publishers about a debt, says: "You convinced me that some of my objections were not well founded, and that I claimed credit for things to which I was not entitled. . . . I withdraw and apologise. . . I have not a shilling, am, in short, living from hand to mouth." . . . *Characteristic and Rare.* £2.

***

The price of Parnell letters has evidently fallen considerably since the *Times* tried to deal with Mr. Pigott in that commodity. Pigott's second letter is described as *rare*. While he was alive such letters were anything but uncommon. There is a curious irony in £2 being realized after his death by the poor wretch's appeal, based on the plea that he had not a shilling and was living from hand to mouth. Happy thought! Why does not Mr. Walter sell his Pigott letters for the benefit of his shareholders? He is understood to have a very large collection.

***

The extraordinary popularity of "Robert Elsmere" is illustrated forcibly to-day by the appearance of a cheap 2*s. 6d.* edition (Smith, Elder and Co.). Clearly printed and neatly bound, the complete novel, extending to over 600 pages, is certainly a very cheap half-crown's worth. It appears from the title-page that 10,000 copies of this edition have been printed, and that 45,000 copies of the previous editions have been sold. Did ever so serious a book obtain before so large an audience in so short a time?

***

The vicarage of Maddingley, Cambridge, has been offered by the Bishop of Ely to the Rev. R. Y. Whytehead, vicar of Nunkeeling, Hull. Maddingley Hall was the residence of the Prince of Wales when he was a Trinity undergraduate; and there is a tradition at Cambridge of the Prince Consort paying a surprise visit to catch his young hopeful at his books, but coming instead upon "a sound of revelry by night."

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Under the special circumstance of the case the council of Haileybury College made the best choice yesterday in electing Mr. Edward Lyttelton to the headmastership. It would be invidious to say that he was the best man in—in scholarly attainments he undoubtedly was not; but he was the best man for the emergency. If any one can bring the school out of the low water into which it has sunk, Mr. Lyttelton will do it. Amongst his testimonials, by the way, was a very strong one from Mr. Welldon. But Mr. Lyttelton must do better with Haileybury than Mr. Welldon has yet done with Harrow. Otherwise Haileybury will cut but a very poor figure from the point of view of scholarship success.

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What is this, Mr. Baumann? You, a Tory M.P., from the bench behind the Colonial Secretary, enunciate the doctrine that the Cabinet is only the Executive Committee of the House, and ought to refer its deliberations in the making to you and your fellow-members? We shall expect to see you, in your next election address, swearing by "delegates," and "shorter parliaments," and "mandates," and "plébiscites," and clamouring for the *referendum*. This is promising indeed. What a vivifying atmosphere is that of a London constituency!

***

A Vaudois paper says that M. Dillon, the former counsellor and treasurer of General Boulanger, is living at present in a handsome villa at Clarens, has fine horses and carriages, and fares sumptuously every day. He has two sons, tall young fellows, and is making the best of both by placing one of them among the Hussars, and sending the other to study under the Jesuits. He seems to have totally renounced Boulangism, and cannot be persuaded to talk about politics.

***

No, still they are not happy! That puzzle-headed troupe of "Catos" and "Cato juniors," and other Censorious persons redolent of "New-square," are at it again in the *Times*. Having abandoned the original point altogether, they are at present burrowing about under two entirely fresh confusions. They prefer to see no difference between (1) a lie and (2) what Mr. Parnell called "a sweeping, boastful exaggeration"—a political lie, in fact, like Mr. Balfour's boasts about the entire suppression of the League. And they also see none between an explanation deliberately thought out and definitely adopted and one which a witness in the box, sick and contemptuous of a blustering cross-examiner, accepts for the time as a corollary of something which he has been induced to admit by a garbled quotation. Try again, Cato and Company.

***

The Conservative candidate for North St. Pancras is a fluent speaker, and a man of considerable literary attainments. He received his education in Italy and Germany as well as in England before going to Exeter College, Oxford, where he obtained the Taylorian Exhibition in modern languages as well as took classical honours in the Final School. He has been a great traveller in the colonies and foreign countries, and his house at Hyde Park-place is a perfect museum of pictures and other works of art, collected by his father and himself. He is confident himself of winning; but the shrewder members of his party confess that, though he is a better speaker than Lord Lamington, he lacks many of the advantages possessed by the former member in the eyes of a constituency like North St. Pancras, which dearly loves an embryo lord, particularly when the purse-strings of his family were so widely opened.

***

The case of Mr. Helby is to be quickly followed by another action for libel against a member of a public body on whose behalf privilege is claimed. Prominence will be given to this case by the names of the counsel retained—namely, Mr. Asquith, Q.C., Mr. Murphy, Q.C., Mr. Foote, Mr. English Harrison, and Mr. Rose Innes; and the gravity of the issues involved will be apparent to all who take part in public work of any kind.

CADBURY'S COCOA is a refined concentration of the strength-sustaining principle of the flesh-forming constituents of the Cocoa-nib. Delicious, nutritious, easily digested, and of great economy a nursery packet yielding fourteen large breakfast cups of perfect Cocoa. It is absolutely pure.

"OF THE MAKING OF BOOKS THERE IS NO END."

SOME OBSERVATIONS BY MR. GLADSTONE.

In an article in the *Nineteenth Century* on "Books and the Housing of them," Mr. Gladstone alludes to the extraordinary increase in the production of books, and makes the following observations:—The key of the question lies in the hands of the United Kingdom, and the United States jointly. In this matter there rests upon these two Powers no small responsibility. They, with their vast range of inhabited territory, and their unity of tongue are masters of the world, which will have to do as they do. When the Britains and America are fused into one book market, when it is recognized that letters which as to their material and their aim are a high soaring profession as to their more permanent results are a trade, when artificial fetters are relaxed, and printers, publishers, and authors obtain the reward which well-regulated commerce would afford them, then let floors beware lest they crack and walls lest they bulge and burst from the weight of books they will have to carry and to confine. It is plain for one thing that under the new state of things specialism in the future must more and more abound; but specialism means subdivision of labour, and with subdivision labour ought to be more completely, more exactly performed. Let us bow our heads to the inevitable. The day of encyclopædic earning has gone by.

THE OFFICE OF SCHOOL BOARD MEDICAL OFFICER.

There were no less than 140 applications for the appointment of medical officer to the London School Board. These were reduced by the sub-committee to 15, and again to 6. The final selection of the Board will be made in a few days. The position is worth £300 per annum.

WHAT SIR CHARLES LEWIS MEANS TO DO.

Sir Charles Lewis, M.P., informed the representative of a news agency in the Lobby last night that he had given notice to Ministers that when they introduce their projected Irish Local Government Bill, he should oppose it at every one of its stages. The hon. baronet expressed the opinion that it was nothing less than monstrous and malignant to tamper with the settled institutions of Ireland after this fashion; and he concluded, "I shall push my hostility to the extent even of throwing out the Government, if my vote should be sufficient to do it."

"QUEEN'S SCHOLARS" AT WESTMINSTER SCHOOL.

A resolution is to be submitted early next month to the governing body of Westminster School by one of its members, to the effect that "Queen's scholars" shall no longer be required to reside in college, but shall be at liberty to live at their respective houses and attend the school as day boarders. Against the proposed resolution a petition is to be presented to the governing body, bearing the signatures of most prominent Old Westminsters of the present day, and Sir Patrick Colquhoun, Q.C., is doing all he can to get signatures on behalf of the committee of that old institution the Elizabethan Club.

ANXIOUS FOR SERVICE UNDER LORD C. BERESFORD.

A country gossip declares that such is the popularity of the noble lord that a "round robin" was signed by a batch of seamen, and sent to the Dockyard Admiral, asking to be drafted for service under Lord Charles Beresford in H.M.S. *Undaunted*.

THE FRENCH EXHIBITION AT EARL'S COURT.

Colonel North stated that yesterday he signed the necessary contract for the holding of a French Exhibition at Earl's-court this season. He states that the Exhibition is bound to be a great success, as space has been more than taken up, and that nothing on the part of the management will be wanting to make this even a bigger success than that which attended the Italian Exhibition of two years ago.

MANSFIELD COLLEGE.

There is likely to be a deficiency of about £600 in the funds for building and fitting Mansfield College. This is principally owing to the placing of canopies in the chapel, which will cost about £1,000. The entire expense of the buildings will be some £48,600. There can be little doubt, however, that the £600 deficit will very soon be forthcoming when it becomes known that the money is required.

A NEW MINISTER AND A NEW POLICY.

Lew Ta Jen, the retiring Chinese Minister to the Courts of London, Paris, and St. Petersburg, left London yesterday morning for Paris to meet his successor, Hsieh Ta Jen, who is now on his way from China, and is expected to reach Marseilles on March 7. When he has installed the latter in the Ministry in the French capital he will return hither to perform a similar office, and will then go back to his own country. The London correspondent of the *Birmingham Post*, who gives this information, adds that in this case it is not a mere change of Ministry that will be effected, but a radical alteration of policy, and that in order to carry this its full effect practically the whole of the present personnel of the Chinese Ministry here will be replaced by new men. Sir Halliday Macartney, however, will retain the position he has so long filled.

THE NEW HEAD MASTER OF HAILEYBURY.

At a meeting of the council of Haileybury College, held in London yesterday afternoon, the Hon. and Rev. E. Lyttelton, one of the assistant masters at Eton, was unanimously appointed Head Master of Haileybury in the place of the Rev. J. Robertson, resigned.

PECKHAM LIBERALISM.

An interesting and well-attended meeting was held last night in the large room of the South Peckham Liberal Club. Mr. Councillor Lyon presided, and Mr. Rickman, the Liberal candidate for the Peckham division, whose popularity increases with each meeting he attends, spoke fully on the political situation. He was followed by the Hon. Dadabhai Naoroji, whose exposition of Indian affairs met with a very appreciative attention. Other speeches were made and resolutions were passed expressing gratification at the declared freedom of Mr. Parnell and the other Irish members from the "charges and allegations" of the *Times*, and in favour of free education.

PERFORMANCE OF THE "ANTIGONE" IN LEICESTERSHIRE.

The tragedy of "Antigone" (Mr. Whitelaw's version) was produced at the Philharmonic Hall, Loughborough, last evening, by an amateur company, of which Mr. Hainsworth and Mr. Baldwin (Hæmon and Sentinel) are already known to "Greek Play" fame. A large audience, who quickly manifested its sympathy, was assembled, and greeted the first appearance on any stage of Viscountess Maidstone, who lent her valuable aid to the charitable purpose of the entertainment, given on behalf of the Loughborough Dispensary, by appearing as the heroine of the awful story of Fate. Lady Maidstone's performance was an unqualified success. Carefully studied, deeply felt, and rendered with grace and grandeur, her Antigone is a wonderful *coup d'essai*, and at once seized upon the audience. Her sister, Miss Jenkinson, also a novice, was the Eurydice, and she played the part with force and dignity. Mr. Hainsworth, and Mr. Baldwin fully sustained their reputation, and the ensemble was so meritorious as to inspire a lively hope that we may see the "Antigone" acted by the leading members of this company in London.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR ON THE "DIVINE LIBRARY."

The Lord Chancellor (Lord Halsbury) presided last night over a meeting in Exeter (Lower) Hall to hear the first or a course of five lectures on "Bible Mysteries," by the Rev. J. Neil, of Jerusalem. The attendance was rather sparse, and it was considerably past the stated hour of meeting when his lordship took the chair. The secretary of the Y.M.C.A. having briefly commended the association's work, the Lord Chancellor said his position was that of a listener. The "Divine Library"—as the Bible had well been called—was receiving light and illustration from every department of human knowledge. If there had been anything in it not exactly accurate, it would long ago have been exploded. The lecturer knew the country well of which he was to speak, and therefore he could speak of his subject with authority. The illustration of Bible difficulties by means of what he had seen in Palestine was a great help towards their understanding them. The lecturer's was the most important subject that could occupy the human mind. (Applause.)

The death is announced of Mr. John Thirkell, formerly of the *Sheffield Telegraph*, and latterly proprietor and editor of the *Shanghai Courier*.

A bust of the late Lord Farnborough (Sir Erskine May) will be unveiled in the library of the House of Commons by the Speaker on Thursday next. The bust is the work of Mr. Bruce Joy.

The will of the late Isaac Braithwaite, of Hookfield-grove, Epsom, and 4, Gloucester-square, and formerly of Austinfriars, stockbroker, who died at Hastings on the 26th ult., aged seventy-nine years, has been proved at £289,050.

Bord's Pianos.—25 per cent. discount for cash, or 15*s.* per month (Second-hand 10*s.* 6*d.* per month on the three years' system. Illustrated Lists free of CHAS. STILES and CO., 48, SOUTHAMPTON ROW, HOLBORN, W.C. Pianos exchanged.

THE WORK AT THE LAW COURTS.

Despite the fact of so many judges being on circuit, and the delays caused by the death of Mr. Justice Manisty and the retirement of Mr. Justice Field, work at the law courts is proceeding much more rapidly than at the same period of last year. This is owing to a wise arrangement made by the Lord Chief Justice. When it was known that Lord Justice Bowen's illness was likely to keep him away for some time, Lord Coleridge went into the Court of Appeal for a fortnight, and in that time so much progress was made with the work in this branch of the Supreme Court, that Lord Esher and Lord Justice Fry have been able to assist in the Queen's Bench Division this week, the former sitting in a Divisional Court, and the latter trying non-jury actions with such expedition that forty have been disposed of since Monday. We regret to learn that although Lord Justice Bowen is no longer seriously indisposed, his recovery is so slow that he does not expect to be able to resume his seat on the Bench these sittings.

THE GIRLS' PUBLIC DAY SCHOOL COMPANY.

Though the Girls' Public Day School Company, which held its annual meeting yesterday, has now a number of powerful rivals, it can claim the honour of having been the first to call attention to the importance of girls' education, and to lay down lines for the conduct of girls' schools. Since the company first began to establish schools on new models, healthy progress has been made in the movement, and the Charity Commissioners have granted sums from endowments to no fewer than fifteen large girls' schools in London alone. Despite the prevalence of influenza at the time when the numbers were taken in the thirty-four schools of the company, the total number of pupils is 6,653 as compared with 6,618 for last year. The newest schools, those at Dover, Swansea, and a new preparatory school at Newcastle-on-Tyne show very satisfactory progress. The largest attendances are at Notting-hill, Blackheath, Sheffield, and Dulwich High Schools. Princess Louise is to distribute the prizes at a great gathering of the girls in the London schools on the 23rd of May. The girls are to occupy the Handel orchestra at the Crystal Palace, and the sight will probably be very pretty and effective. Lord Aberdare presided at yesterday's meeting, and Sir Douglas Galton and Miss Emily Sherreff were among those who attended the meeting.

GOSSIP ABOUT MR. GLADSTONE.

A correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* writes:—"I had the pleasure of some conversation with Mr. Gladstone this morning, and I am glad to be able to report that, apart from a trifling hoarseness, he has quite recovered from the cold he caught at Lord Sydney's funeral. His physician ought absolutely to prohibit him from attending such ceremonies, at any rate at this season of the year. It is monstrous that a man of eighty should have to stand bareheaded in the open air for fifteen or twenty minutes while this horrible east wind is blowing, and when the man is Mr. Gladstone it is almost like treason to the country. And of course, with his grand old ideas of courtesy, is only too ready to render such homage to a departed friend, but under all the circumstances it may be doubted whether such homage does not come very near the primeval idea that human sacrifice is somehow acceptable to the shade of the departed. Mr. Gladstone is much delighted with an excellent portrait in oil of his old friend Dr. Döllinger, which he has received from Germany. He occupies at present a prominent place in his room. It is a striking likeness—'As like as ever it can stare' is his own expression—all the strong lines in the learned but hardly pleasing face being shown with much vigour and fidelity. Apparently it was painted before Dr. Döllinger's excommunication in 1871, as it represents him wearing his insignia as Provost of the Chapel Royal at Munich.

SIGHTLESS GYMNASTS.

Last night's entertainment at the People's Palace combined, as concert, whether of West or East End seldom does, the pathetic and the wonderful. Gymnastic displays are very ordinary affairs in these days of muscle culture, but the audience which crowded the commodious Queen's Hall could not complain that the skilled gymnasts from the Royal Normal College for the Blind were in any way commonplace. When once upon the small portion of space allotted to them, the performers seemed scarcely to miss their sight that has been denied them, and the extraordinary manner in which they avoided collision, through careful measurement of their steps when quick marching, brought them round after round of applause. To Mr. Guy Campbell great credit is due for having trained his pupils to feats on the parallel bars and vaulting-horse such as were shown. He explained between the acts that the lads were taught gymnastics to equip them the better for their fight in life. Then he went on to say that those trained in the college had earned in hard cash during the past year about £1,700, and that among these workers were four young ladies employed as teachers in London Board schools. He referred briefly to the musical education given at the school, asking that the audience would show their appreciation of the songs and music which they had heard by employing the blind performers on every possible occasion.

THE SHAKSPEARE READING SOCIETY.

The reading of "Much Ado about Nothing" given before a large audience at the London Institution last night did great credit to the members of the Shakspeare Reading Society. Carefully study and rehearsal under Mr. William Poel had made the readers almost independent of their books, and the interpreters of the principal characters showed considerable dramatic talent. Miss Alexes Leighton's professional experience at the Lyceum showed itself in her rendering of the sparkling wit and the glimpses of womanly tenderness betrayed by the saucy Beatrice, while in Mr. S. H. Basing she found a Benedick worthy of her Beatrice. Mr. Samuel Johnson of the Lyceum as Dogberry, and Mr. Trenchard of the Globe Theatre as Friar Francis lent their professional weight to the performance, the former delivering with great effect the absurdities of the male edition of Mrs. Malaprop. An invisible choir, under the direction of Mr. Sexton (Vicar Choral of Westminster Abbey), a lady harpist, and a gentleman who combined the duties of pianist and organist contributed to the effect of the reading while the incidental song, "Sigh no more ladies" was prettily sung by Miss Rose Mitchell, who read the part of Balthazar. The theatre was filled with the members of the society and their friends, the bright dresses of the ladies transforming the scene where solid instruction is usually imparted into one of unwonted cheerfulness.

REMBRANDT ETCHINGS.

The collection of Rembrandt Etchings to be included in the forthcoming exhibition of the Royal Society of Painter-Etchers will be of unique importance, as no collection yet shown to the public has represented the great master so fully, and at the same time with examples in such perfect condition. In deference to the wish of several concerned, and in view of the interest likely to be aroused, Mr. Seymour Hayden has kindly consented to be at the gallery on Friday next from two o'clock, the press view day, when he has promised to answer any questions regarding them. This courteous action of a specialist in the subject will, no doubt, be fully appreciated by the many admirers of Rembrandt's work.

It has been decided that a record of the number of visitors ascending the Monument shall be kept.

Two Scotch members, Mr. Stephen Williamson and Mr. J. C. Bolton, are confined to their respective hotels in consequence of indisposition.

Mr. F. N. Charrington, Q.C., has been recommended by his medical adviser to take rest, and has gone to the Canary Islands.

The Premier of New Zealand (Sir Harry Atkinson), who has been taking a holiday in Tasmania, has returned home with his health much better.

It is announced that the Queen in Council has granted the Cardiff Corporation petition for a separate Court of Quarter Session. A Recorder for Cardiff will be appointed.

Several Lisbon journals complain of a small geography manual adopted by the British Government for the use of school children in India, as giving an offensive description of the Portuguese.

Two Liberal Unionist members—Mr. Powell Williams and Mr. Lea—who have been hitherto absent this session from the House because of illness, returned to their accustomed places yesterday.

The Royal Commission on Vaccination held another long sitting yesterday. Mr. Alfred Russell Wallace, LL.D., who is the author of a pamphlet, "Compulsory Vaccination Proved Wrong by Fifty Years' Statistics," was examined at great length.

Mr. W. Johnston will now take charge of the Intoxicating Liquors (Ireland) (Hours of Sale) Bill introduced by the late Mr. Biggar. The bill proposes to restrict the sale of intoxicating liquors in Ireland to the hours between one o'clock in the morning and nine at night.

A movement has been set on foot for the establishment of a free public library at Chiswick. Within the last five years free libraries have been successfully established in the neighbouring towns of Richmond, Twickenham, Ealing, Kingston, Brentford, and Wandsworth.

"FOR THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE."—Clarke's world-famed Blood Mixture is warranted to cleanse the blood from all impurities, from whatever cause arising. For Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, and blood diseases, and sores of all kinds, its effects are marvellous. Thousands of testimonials. In bottles, 2*s.* 9*d.* and 11*s.*, equal to 4 of Chemists, Apothecaries, Limited, and Midland Counties Drug Company, Lincoln. Ask for Clarke's Blood Mixture, and do not be persuaded to take imitations.

SOUTH METROPOLITAN GAS COMPANY.

MR. LIVESEY ON THE STRIKE.

The ordinary half-yearly general meeting of the above company was held at the Bridge House Hotel yesterday, Mr. George Livesey in the chair. There was a crowded attendance of proprietors. The directors' report entered into a voluminous history of the late strike, of which the direct cost to the company is estimated at £50,000. There was quite an enthusiastic outburst when Mr. Livesey was seen proceeding up the room, which was renewed as he was about to speak. In moving the adoption of the report and accounts, Mr. Livesey alluded to the increased cost of coal, which was not balanced by an increase in the receipts for coke. There had been a great increase in wages quite apart from the strike (about £18,000), and owing to eight hours' shifts and bad work the price of gas had also been reduced. Under ordinary circumstances the dividend would not have been reduced; but, in consequence of the strike, there would only be a dividend of 12 per cent., instead of 13½. The directors last June met the men, and were quite prepared for a 20 per cent. increase in carbonizing wages. But the Stokers' Union lost their heads, and demand after demand was made, until the increase amounted to 40 per cent. The unionists wanted to give employment to a larger number of men, they said. Now they would defeat their own object. Machinery would give them a great advantage—as in Cincinnati, where about twenty men did the work formerly done by eighty, and where the eight hours system had been abandoned. The Gas Union was a fighting body—nothing else, and not calculated to benefit either workers or employers. The profit-sharing scheme was meant to establish true union between masters and men. The directors wished to avoid a fight—hence the profit-sharing proposal. He had always felt that those who did the work of the company should participate in the profits. The history of the incident was then traced at great length. One letter from a shareholder expressed a willingness to forego a dividend for evermore—(laughter)—if necessary to resist the stokers. The tenor of advice was "Never give in!" Mr. Livesey then alluded to Cardinal Manning's mediation in the coal porters' strike. The name of the eminent ecclesiastic was received with some laughter and a few hisses. Mr. Livesey said "No," and proceeded to say that the cardinal was not to blame for being a partizan of the men. But he had no right, with others, to thrust himself forward as a mediator. None of the vestries objected to pay in full for the week during which the supply was short. As to the police they did their duty thoroughly, with good temper and firmness. The railway companies had also helped greatly. The staff too had done all they could at a trying time. (Hear, hear.) The South Metropolitan was now free of the union and meant to keep free. Therefore there could be no strike all over London. (Applause.) The press, too, had much assisted the directors by their fairness. The accounts did not warrant a larger dividend. The report was then adopted, and discussion as to the raising of further capital followed.

DEATH OF A LONDON ALDERMAN.

Yesterday morning, Mr. David Henry Stone, the alderman of Bassishaw Ward, in the City of London, died at his residence after a short illness. The late alderman, who was born in 1812, was elected a member of the Court of Aldermen in April, 1864, on the death of Mr. Alderman Conder, and he served the office of Sheriff of London and Middlesex in 1867, in conjunction with the late Sir W. McArthur. He was Lord Mayor of London in 1875. During his mayoralty he, with the then Sheriffs, paid a state visit to Paris, by the invitation of the Prefect of the Seine, on the occasion of the opening of the new Opera House. The Sultan of Zanzibar visited London the same year and was entertained by the Lord Mayor. A state visit to Dublin and an international municipal ball were also features of Mr. Stone's mayoralty. The late alderman, who was a solicitor by profession, was at the time of his death treasurer of St. Thomas's Hospital, and a Past Grand Warden of Freemasons. The name of Mr. Sheriff Harris is mentioned as a probable successor.

PRESENTATION TO PROFESSOR D'ORSEY.

A very interesting presentation was made yesterday at King's College (the Duke of Rutland in the chair) to the Rev. Professor D'Orsey as a mark of approval of his meritorious services during the past sixty years in the cause of education under somewhat trying circumstances. The presentation took the form of a piece of plate valued at £360.

LIBEL ACTION AGAINST THE "HAWK."

The case of Tasker *v.* Boyd and others came on yesterday before Mr. Justice A. L. Smith and a common jury. The plaintiff, Mr. William Tasker a journalist, professionally known as Edgar Lee, a sub-editor of the *St. Stephen's Review* sued the proprietors and printers of the *Hawk* newspaper to recover damages for alleged libel. The defendants denied that the words complained of were defamatory, and also pleaded that in their fair and ordinary meaning they were true in substance and in fact. Mr. Bowen Rowlands, Q.C., and Mr. Eustace Smith appeared for the plaintiff, Mr. R. T. Reid, Q.C., and Mr. Lionel Hart represented Mr. Boyd, the proprietor of the *Hawk*, and Mr. C. F. Gill was counsel for the printers. The words complained of appeared in February and March, 1889, and were to the effect that the plaintiff was the manager of the Elephant and Castle Theatre, and that a receiver had been put in. The plaintiff, whose only connection with the theatre was that he had lent the lessee some £700, contended that the imputation was that he could not properly carry on his duties as a journalist and that he was insolvent. This, however, was denied by defendants, who said the paragraphs in question contained no imputation upon plaintiff's character or solvency, or that of the lessee, the order for a receiver being made on a foreclosure action. Further defendants pleaded that the paragraphs were inserted in reply to attacks upon the *Hawk* in plaintiff's paper.

The jury gave a verdict for the plaintiff, damages £25. Judgment accordingly.

SCENE AT A WEDDING.—MAY AND DECEMBER.

An unusual scene took place yesterday at the Registry Office, Wimborne, on the marriage of a well-known inhabitant named John Joyce, aged sixty-six, with his domestic servant, a young person about twenty years of age. Joyce buried his first wife on Friday last, and great indignation and excitement was expressed when it became known that he was to be married again. About 400 people assembled outside the office and greeted Joyce with groans and hisses and threw at him bags of rice and flour. On leaving the registry office the newly married pair had to be protected by the police. The bride took shelter in her aunt's house, and the bridegroom sought the protection of a neighbouring public-house till the crowd was dispersed by the police.

A GIRL OF NINE CHARGED WITH POISONING.

At Chester police-court yesterday, Elizabeth Roberts, aged nine years, residing at Crane-street, Chester, was charged with attempting to poison Annie Hodgkinson, a young woman living with her mother at the above address. It was stated that the defendant's father, a widower, was engaged to be married to Hodgkinson. The prisoner had taken a great interest in the Maybrick case, and with another little girl used to play at being Mrs. Maybrick. Sentence of seven years in a reformatory was passed.

THE INTERMINABLE FISHERIES QUESTION.

In the Dominion House of Commons on Tuesday Sir J. Macdonald, in reply to a question, said that he was not responsible for the newspaper statement that the Behring Sea question was being settled without Canada being consulted. The Premier added that Mr. Tupper, the Minister of Marine, had left for Washington in response to a telegram from Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British Minister, stating that he had received orders from the British Government to commence the discussion of the various fishery questions, and that he awaited the arrival of the Canadian representative.—*Reuter.*

OXFORD UNIVERSITY.

The Rev. C. Plummer, Fellow of Corpus Christi, and the Rev. W. J. H. Campion, M.A., a tutor of Keble College, were elected yesterday proctors of the University of Oxford by their respective societies. Their admission takes place next term, when the pro-proctors are also appointed.

THE TICHBORNE CLAIMANT.

The Tichborne Claimant, who is staying at the Plough Hotel, Far Green, Hanley, states that his case is to be re-opened in April next, a fund of £150,000 being guaranteed towards the necessary legal and other expenses. The Claimant, who is looking remarkably well, delivers free lectures each evening upon the points of the last trial, and asserts that, of the 385 witnesses called, 272 were positives and 113 negatives.

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MEETING OF THE LONDON ROAD CAR COMPANY.

INTERESTING DISCUSSION ON THE REPORT.

The usual half-yearly general meeting of the London Road Car Company was held at the Cannon-street Hotel yesterday. Mr. John Howard Moore presided, and, in moving that the report and accounts be adopted and that a dividend of 4 per cent. be declared, pointed out that the second half of the year, contrary to the general rule, had not been so prosperous as that ending on June 30. It was, however, a matter for congratulation that they had carried an increased number of passengers. The figures for 1889 were 29,245,202, as against 22,986,795 for 1888 and 17,908,173 for 1887. Moreover, while their car receipts had fallen by 3*s.* 3*d.* per car per week, their expenses had at the same time fallen by 10*s.* 6*d.*, so that each car produced 7*s.* 3*d.* per week more than in the corresponding period of 1888. The dockers' strike and the strike of the tramway men had both injuriously affected their profits. As soon as the union of the tramway men was formed an attack was made upon the Road Car Company—the ostensible reason being an alleged lengthening of hours on account of the great show at Olympia. The allegation was proved to be false, and the strike was averted. Their hours of labour were practically the same as in the case of the London General Omnibus Company, but the Road Car men were better paid. In support of this statement the chairman made the following comparison between the daily wage in the case of each company:—

	L. G. O.	Road Car.
Drivers	6*s.*	6*s.* to 6*s.* 6*d.*
Conductors	4*s.*	4*s.* to 5*s.* 0*d.*
Horsekeepers	3*s.*	3*s.* 5*d.*

Having commented somewhat severely upon the dishonesty alleged to prevail among the employés of the London General Omnibus Company, and the system of which it was the natural outcome, Mr. Moore finally stated that the advertisement contract of the company had been renewed at an annual profit of £1,500—(hear, hear)—an equivalent to a ¾ per cent. annual dividend.

A general discussion ensued. Colonel Colville, a director, said that the board had for some time been considering proposals for reducing the hours of the men, and also for giving them an inducement to become honest by enabling them in some shape or form to participate in the prosperity of the company. (Hear, hear.) But all their efforts in that direction had been "cribbed, cabined, and confined" by a distinct refusal to co-operate on the part of the London General Omnibus Company.

Mr. F. W. Reynolds, a former director, expressed dissatisfaction with the dividend. As to what the chairman had said with reference to the London General Omnibus Company, he thought they ought to mind their own business. He did not believe the employés of that company were all dishonest, and the chairman ought not to be stigmatized in the manner that he had.

Mr. Offord moved as an amendment that the dividend should be 5 per cent. (This by the way was subsequently withdrawn.) He had very great pleasure in stating that their horse difficulties might very soon be at an end. The problem of the electrical traction of omnibuses had been solved. (Derisive laughter.)

The suggestion of the application of electricity to the running of road cars was further derided by Dr. Sanford Hodgson, a militant director, who next spoke. "I don't believe" (he exclaimed, with refreshing unfaith in the possibilities of modern science)—"I don't believe that any man in this room will ever live to see the time when omnibuses in the streets of London will be propelled by electricity. I don't believe it is possible." Dr. Hodgson proceeded to denounce vigorously the methods of the rival company, adding that the board was well-intentioned towards the men, and would like to reduce their hours of labour if they could.

A shareholder directed attention to the sum of £1,255 salaries of ticket inspectors and cost of tickets. He thought it much too large.

The chairman, in reply to the various criticisms made upon the report, said that it was not true their men had to work seven days a week. They had 200 cars and 270 pairs of men to work them. No man need work on a Sunday, or for more than seven days, unless he liked. The cost of tickets and ticket inspection was 5*s.* per car per week. The inspection brought in 30*s.*—that is to say, they took 30*s.* per car more than the London General Omnibus Company—and he thought the system worked both cheaply and well. The report was then adopted without further question.

THE EFFORTS TO SAVE THE CASTLE OF ST. ANGELO.

There is hope (writes the Rome correspondent of the *Standard*) that the polygonal mediæval towers of the Castle of St. Angelo may, after all, not be included in the work of destruction commenced in carrying on the Tiber Embankment. The president of the Artistic International Association, Signor Palmaroli, and the architect, Signor Piacentini, have waited on the Minister of Public Instruction to make fresh representations on the subject. Several members of the Cabinet are against the scheme of destruction; but the Minister of Public Works, in whose hands the affair rests, is obstinately bent upon it. Signor Finali, though doubtless an able public servant in other matters, does not possess that kind of culture which would enable him to appreciate, or even to understand, the weight of his opponents' arguments. The other Ministers, however, find their hands strengthened by the support of the artists and of a large portion of the Press, and it is now decided that there shall be a conference, with a view to determine the point in dispute between the Ministers of War and Public Instruction and the Minister of Public Works.

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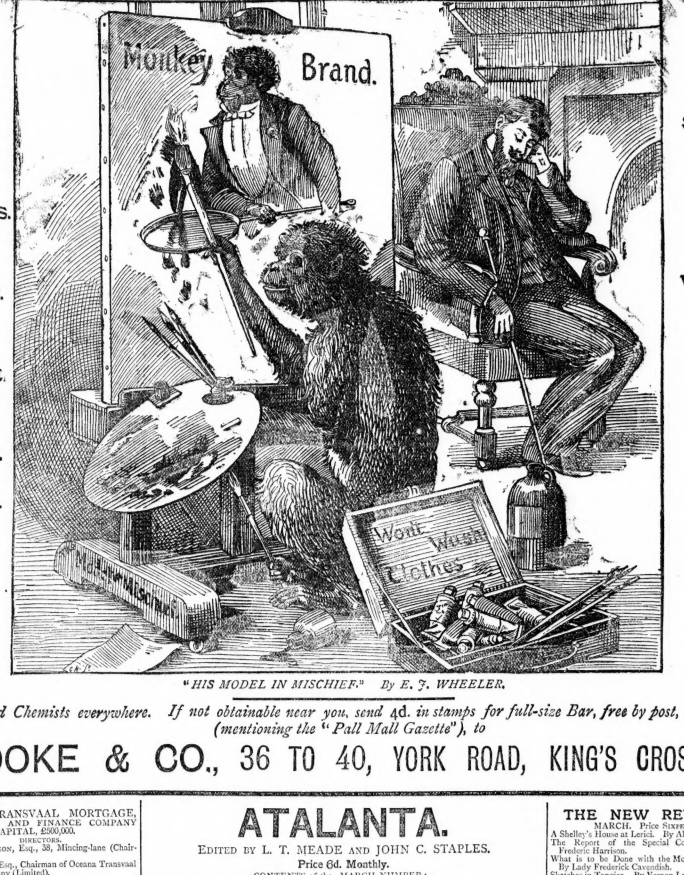
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